PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 263 (PART 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FORTY-FOURTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 1994–95

COMPRISING PERIOD
3 July—19 July 1995

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 3 July 1995

HEALTH

Readmission Rates

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition of readmission is used when calculating readmission rates. [30421]

Mr. Sackville: There is no nationally agreed definition of readmission, nor is there a central mechanism available for collecting information on readmission rates in England. Work is in progress that will in time enable hospital admissions data to be linked to individual patients.

Food Poisoning

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of food poisoning were reported in each of the last 10 years in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(d)* England. [31600]

Mr. Sackville: The information requested is published annually in series MB2 "Communicable disease statistics". The latest available publication is series MB2 no. 19, copies of which are available in the Library.

Asthma

Mr. Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the annual NHS expenditure on the treatment of asthma; and what proportion of the total budget this represents. [31411]

Mr. Sackville: In 1994 the net ingredient cost of national health service prescriptions for asthma medication was £381 million, some 11 per cent. of the net ingredient cost of all prescriptions. The net ingredient cost is the basic price of a drug before discounts and the addition of dispensing costs or fees. Estimates have been made for the financial year 1989–90 of the cost of other NHS services, excluding community health services. It is estimated that the cost of services for asthma was £72 million, which was 0.6 per cent. of the total cost of these services.

Royal Hospitals NHS Trust

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many consultants were at the hospitals that make up the royal hospitals two years ago; what is the current figure; and what is the projected number after the reorganisation as a number and as a whole-time equivalent; [31355]

(2) how many orthopaedic beds were under the control of the Royal Hospital trust before and after the reorganisation; on which site they will be located; and what will be the numbers on each site. [31365]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally. The right hon. Member may wish to contact Sir Derek Boorman, chairman of the Royal Hospitals NHS trust for details.

Diabetes

Mr. Jon Owen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what is the average cost to her Department of providing a diabetes sufferer with a lifetime of free prescriptions; [31407]

(2) what is the total annual cost to her Department of providing free prescriptions to sufferers of diabetes; [31405]

(3) what is the average cost to her Department of prescriptions to diabetics per annum, per patient. [31404]

Mr. Sackville: The available information is shown in the table.

Drugs used in the treatment of diabetes, 1994 (provisional)

England

Ingredient cost/item	
Net ingredient cost	£97.3 million
Prescription items	9.4 million
Average net ingredient cost per prescription item	£10.33

Notes:

1. Drugs as defined by the British National Formulary section 6.1
2. The information was obtained from the Prescription Cost Analysis system which is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England.
3. The net ingredient cost refers to the cost of the drug before discounts and does not include any dispensing costs or fees.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetics there are in Britain. [31406]

Mr. Sackville: An estimated 1.2 per cent. of the British population have clinically diagnosed diabetes.

Diptheria

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she is taking for the population of the United Kingdom in respect of the World Health Organisation guidance that the people should receive a booster vaccine against diptheria every 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [31503]

Mr. Sackville: We are not aware of any such recommendations by the World Health Organisation. WHO recommends that a primary course of three doses of diphtheria vaccine should be part of the immunisation programme and in the United Kingdom children are offered three doses of diptheria vaccine at two, three and four months of age. A reinforcing booster dose is offered as part of the pre-school booster to four-year-olds and a further low dose booster of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine is offered to teenagers.

The chief medical officer has issued advice for boosting requirements for travellers to eastern Europe.

Surgeons (St. Bartholomew's Hospital)

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the resignation of three orthopaedic consultants at St Bartholomew's hospital. [31356]

Mr. Malone: This is a matter for the Royal Hospitals National Health Service trust. The right hon. Member may wish to contact the chairman, Sir Derek Boorman, for details.

Ask-a-Nurse Service

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the ask-a-nurse service by Access Health United Kingdom; and what plans she has to finance it. [31350]

Mr. Malone: It is for health authorities, in consultation with clinicians and the public, and bearing in mind the national framework set out in the priorities and planning guidance for the national health service, to decide what treatments and services are required in order to meet local needs.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS funds have been paid from the NHS to Access Health United Kingdom in each of the last three years. [31349]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

Dysentery

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of dysentery were recorded in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(d)* England in each year since 1990. [31601]

Mr. Sackville: Information on the number of cases of dysentery are published annually in the MB2 series, "communicable disease statistics," copies of which are available in the Library.

Cosmetic Surgery

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has carried out into an assessment of nasal shape after surgery using Quicktime;what were the findings of that research; and if she will make a statement. [31502]

Mr. Sackville: The Department of Health has conducted no research into this subject.

Births

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of births outside marriage were registered by both parents living in the same address in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(d)* England in each year since 1979. [31603]

Mr. Sackville: The available information is shown in the table.

Percentage of births outside marriage which were jointly registered by parents living at the same address

	York County District	*North Yorkshire*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*England*
1986	50.0	51.2	47.3	47.1
1987	51.6	53.5	47.7	48.2
1988	51.5	55.4	48.6	49.9
1989	57.2	56.5	50.9	52.0
1990	56.0	58.9	52.6	53.5
1991	57.3	60.4	53.4	55.0
1992	58.3	59.8	54.6	55.9
1993	60.0	62.8	54.9	55.3

Folic Acid

Mr. Gareth Wardell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish the details of the campaign to be commenced in the autumn on the importance of folic acid taken before conception and then in early pregnancy. [31331]

Mr. Sackville: Plans for a public awareness campaign about folic acid and the prevention of neural tube defects are nearing completion and an announcement will be made shortly.

Mr. Wardell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to make folic acid available free of charge as a pre-pregnancy supplement. [31333]

Mr. Sackville: None. Folic acid is already available on prescription free of charge for women who are pregnant or who are entitled to remission of prescription charges on grounds of low income.

Trauma Units

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the hospitals which have specialist trauma units. [31504]

Mr. Sackville: Trauma patients are normally taken to hospital accident and emergency departments.

In 1988 a Royal College of Surgeons report suggested that outcomes for patients with life-threatening injury might be better if they were treated in regional trauma centres.

We set up a pilot trauma centre at the North Staffordshire Hospitals National Health Service trust in 1990. The evaluation of this pilot is now complete and a report is being drafted.

Private Health Care

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the expenditure by each hospital trust in each of the past four years in purchasing health care or facilities in the private sector; and what was the total expenditure for this purpose in each year. [31839]

Mr. Sackville: The financial returns of national health service trusts provide expenditure figures on the purchase of health care from non-NHS bodies, whether in the public or private sectors. The figures for England are £12,204,000 in 1991–92, £45,436,000 in 1992–93, and £50,386,000 in 1993–94. The Government welcome cost-effective co-operation between the NHS and

independent sector. This increases the range of options available to patients and health service managers and makes optimum use of available resources.

Meconium Aspiration

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths have occurred as a result of meconium aspiration in each of the past 10 years; and what action she will take to reduce the number of deaths resulting from meconium aspiration. [30890]

Mr. Sackville: Figures for stillbirths, neonatal deaths—deaths under 28 days—and postneonatal deaths—deaths between 28 days and under one year—with a cause coded to the international classification of diseases, ICD 9th revision code 770.1, massive aspiration syndrome, will be placed in the Library.

Fertility Treatment

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is her estimate to date of the number of children born as a result of fertility treatment within the national health service. [30891]

Mr. Sackville: This information is not available centrally.

Medical Qualifications

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the effect of the European medical directives on United Kingdom registered medical practitioners who are also United Kingdom citizens, and who obtained their primary medical qualification outside the United Kingdom. [31330]

Mr. Malone: European legislation deals only with the mutual recognition of medical qualifications issued by member states of the European Economic Area. Each member state may decide for itself whether to recognise medical qualifications gained outside the EEA. The competent authority in each member state must, in considering an application for registration from a person whose qualification has been gained outside the EEA, take account of and give appropriate weight to the fact that an applicant's primary medical qualification has been recognised by another EEA state and the knowledge, experience and qualifications gained by an applicant in an EEA state, subsequent to obtaining his primary medical qualification outside the EEA.

Young People Leaving Care

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of young people who left care in each of the past five years for which figures are available *(a)* went into furnished private accommodation, *(b)* went into furnished local authority accommodation, *(c)* went in to unfurnished accommodation and *(d)* went into temporary accommodation; and what percentage is currently homeless. [31616]

Mr. Bowis: This information is not available centrally.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of young people leaving care receive a leaving care grant; what is the average value of the grant; and if she will give a regional breakdown of the amounts given. [31613]

Mr. Bowis: This information is not available centrally.

National Blood Authority

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new posts have been designated by the National Blood Authority in preparation for possible re organisation; and if she will state the titles of the posts and the names of those provisionally appointed. [31996]

Mr. Sackville: This is a matter for the National Blood Authority.

Fostering

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish her response to the consultation about the delegation of fostering duties to profit-making organisations and the easement of respite care regulations; and if she will make a statement. [32101]

Mr. Bowis: We are considering the responses received to the consultation document.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Atmospheric Pollutants

Mr. Redmond: To ask the right hon. Member for Selby, as representing the Church Commissioners what action the Commissioners are taking to obtain Government repair grants for damage caused by atmospheric pollutants; and if he will make a statement. [31090]

Mr. Alison: None, so far as the Commissioners' own property is concerned.

Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the right hon. Member for Selby, as representing the Church Commissioners (1) what plans the Commissioners have to establish two pension funds, one for the dignitaries and staff at Church House and No. 1 Millbank and another for the parish clergy; [31992]

(2) what plans the Commissioners have for a single fund into which they will pay the future contributions of dignitaries while each diocese will be asked to meet the future contributions of the parish clergy. [31993]

Mr. Alison: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer that I gave him on 14 June 1995, *Official Report*, column *556*.

One of the proposals of the joint report on pensions by the Central Board of Finance, the Church of England Pensions Board and the Church Commissioners which will be considered by the General Synod in July, is that pensions contributions in respect of future service of the parochial clergy should be raised by dioceses—through parishes—and invested in a separate pensions fund. The

Commissioners would make contributions into the same fund in respect of those dignitaries whose stipends they meet in full.

The Commissioners will be seeking the power to spend capital to discharge their existing liability for past service pensions. That power could also be used to enable the establishment of a funded scheme for the staff in their employment.

Temporary Income

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the right hon. Member for Selby, as representing the Church Commissioners (1) what was the cost of capital losses incurred to purchase £12.9 million temporary income mentioned in the 1994 annual report;

(2) what was the total temporary income generated since the Commissioners began the practice of obtaining this income; and what effect this has had on the size of the capital base of the Commissioners' assets.

Mr. Alison: Temporary income refers to the accounting policy of recording interest on gilt edged securities on a receipts basis rather than on an accruals basis. The temporary income generated up to the end of 1994 was £56.7 million. As explained in appendix 12 of the Social Security Committee's recent report, in so far as the above amounts would otherwise have been treated as capital and retained, the fact that they have been recorded as income and distributed within the Church has led to capital being reduced by the same amount.

The Commissioners have repeatedly made it clear that the current level of income distribution as a percentage of their assets remains unsustainably high, despite a reduction to 6 per cent. in 1994. The generation of temporary income is but one element of an investment strategy which is required to produce the level of income needed to meet the Commissioners' current commitments to the financial support of the ministry. The Commissioners are reducing their expenditure and re-balancing their assets at a pace which is feasible for them and manageable for the Church.

EMPLOYMENT

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what plans he has to review the provision in the proposed jobseeker's allowance that a claimant has to be available for work for 40 hours per week and still accept any job that is offered, in the light of changing trends in the number of jobs which are part-time. [31660]

Miss Widdecombe: None. People claiming jobseeker's allowance should ensure that they are open to a wide range of job opportunities. They should therefore be willing to work for a minimum of 40 hours per week, even if they would prefer to work fewer hours. Jobseekers will not, however, be subject to a sanction for refusing a job offered to them if they can show good cause for that refusal.

Young People Leaving Care

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what percentage of young people who left care in each of the past five years for which figures are available are currently *(a)* on YTS schemes, *(b)* employed and *(c)* unemployed. [31620]

Mr. Paice: The information requested is not available. The labour force survey and the youth cohort study both gather information on the employment status of young people, but neither asks whether respondents have been in care.

Employment Service

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what progress the Employment Service has made in meeting the targets outlined in the 1994–95 annual performance agreement; and if he will list the targets and the outcomes achieved. [32596]

Miss Widdecombe: The Employment Service has performed excellently in 1994–95, exceeding all but one of its targets. It placed 1,876,800 unemployed people into jobs, against an annual target of 1.7 million. This represents 236,900 more placings than 1993–94. Performance against all the targets for 1994–95 is set out in the following table:

Employment service performance against target
April 1994–March 1995

Annual performance targets	*Target levels*	*Performance*
1. To place 1.7 million unemployed people into work at a planned unit cost of £188, assuming 2.4 million vacancies are notified	1.7 million	1,876,800
2. 29.5 per cent. of total unemployed placings achieved to be long-term claimants.	29.5 per cent.	29.7 per cent. (556,600)
3. 26 per cent. of total unemployed placings achieved to be people in inner cities.	26 per cent.	28 per cent. (526,300)
4. 50 per cent. positive outcomes for unemployed claimants invited to a 12 month advisory interview.	50 per cent.	53 per cent.
5. 35 per cent. positive outcomes for unemployed claimants invited to a 24 month advisory interview.	35 per cent.	44 per cent.
6. 92 per cent. of clients due an advisory interview to receive one, assuming 9 million interviews are due.	92 per cent.	95 per cent.
7. 9 per cent. of initial claim enquiries not to be pursued as new claims	9 per cent.	10.3 per cent
8. 135,000 submissions to adjudication where there is an arguable case, with supporting information to show that the claimant is not available for, actively seeking or willing to accept work.	135,000	203,500

Employment service performance against target
April 1994–March 1995

Annual performance targets	*Target levels*	*Performance*
9. At a planned unit cost per claimant of £14.80 for all benefit claims:		
—despatch 75 per cent. of first payments of Unemployment Benefit within 10 days of a claim	75 per cent.	65 per cent.
—97 per cent. of Unemployment Benefit payments by value to be correct.	97 per cent.	96 per cent.
10. 3.3 per cent. of total unemployed placings achieved to be people with disabilities	3.3 per cent.	3.7 per cent. (70,300)
11. 70,000 claims to be withdrawn of those suspected of obtaining benefit by deception following fraud investigation.	70,000	78,200
12. To achieve £25.1 million in efficiency savings.	£25.1 million	£29.09 million

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

High Commission, Nairobi

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will give a breakdown of the cost involved in the building of the new United Kingdom high commission office in Nairobi, Kenya. [31703]

Mr. Goodlad: The building cost to date of the new British high commission in Nairobi totals £5,640,000, comprising land cost of £65,000, consultants' fees of £1,230,000 and construction costs of £4,345,000.

Indigenous Peoples

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Her Majesty's Government's policy on the rights of indigenous peoples. [31847]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: We are concerned that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people, including indigenous people, should be respected. We believe that indigenous people should participate fully and freely in all aspects of society, in particular in matters of concern to them. We participate in the discussion on indigenous issues within the UN.

France (Nuclear Testing)

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to make representations to the French Government about its intention to resume nuclear testing. [31777]

Mr. David Davis: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member for Ynys Môn (Mr. Jones) on 28 June, *Official Report*, column *636*.

South Pacific

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to sign the treaty of Rarotonga on a South Pacific nuclear-free zone. [31778]

Mr. David Davis: The treaty of Rarotonga is not open for signature by the United Kingdom. We have no current plans to become a party to any of the protocols to the treaty of Rarotonga.

Complaints

Ms Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what policy and procedure exists for dealing with complaints against his Department by members of the public; when the policy was last updated; what time limit and target for dealing with such complaints his Department has; and what follow-up procedure exists where complainants are not satisfied with his Department's response to a complaint. [26220]

Mr. Goodlad: The FCO's diplomatic wing policy and procedure for dealing with complaints from members of the public in respect of the legalisation office, consular service and overseas trade services is as follows:

LEGALISATION OFFICE

Complaints dealt with on the spot where possible; target of three workings days where further investigation required.

Complaints procedure published with names and addresses of individuals to whom complaints should be addressed.

Complaints procedure reviewed and updated 1 February 1995.

CONSULAR SERVICE

—Overseas

Target of three working days to respond to complaints.

Each post offering consular services displays procedures for complaints and named individuals to whom complaints should be addressed.

Procedure has not been updated.

—At home

Complaints replied to within seven working days if channelled through an MP; target of twenty working days to reply if complaint made direct.

OVERSEAS TRADE SERVICES

Target of five working days for service provider to respond to complaints. Target of fifteen working days for Customer Services Manager to respond if complaint taken to that level.

Guidelines shortly to be published.

Guidelines reviewed annually but have not been updated.

Complaints on all other matters, including complaints relating to the Overseas Development Administration, sent by a Member of Parliament are dealt with within seven working days. Other written complaints are dealt with within the 20 working day deadline for letters to members of the public.

Guidance on complaints procedures advises members of the public to contact their Member of Parliament or the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration—Parliamentary Ombudsman—if they are not satisfied with the way in which their complaint has been handled.

Departmental Performance

Ms Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what performance indicators and performance targets there are for measuring the

performance of his Department in *(a)* answering letters from members of the public and *(b)* answering telephone calls from members of the public; how performance is monitored; and what are the latest figures for performance measured against the target set. [26236]

Mr. Goodlad: The FCO has an office-wide target of 20 working days for replying to letters from members of the public. For the diplomatic wing, performance is monitored within each department and central returns submitted. Between 1 April 1994, when the target was introduced, to 31 December 1994, 23,329 letters were received of which 98 per cent. were replied to within the target. In the Overseas Development Administration, 1,477 requests for information were received within the same period, of which 94 per cent. were replied to within the target.

The FCO has no set target for answering telephone calls from members of the public.

UN Conference on Women

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make arrangements for those representing the United Kingdom at the Beijing conference on women to receive a briefing from those non-governmental organisations and other organisations on the human rights position of women in China. [26900]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: We already have close contact with human rights organisations dealing with the Peking conference on women.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Chinese authorities regarding the provision made for non-governmental organisations at the United National conference on women to be held in Beijing. [26898]

Mr. Hogg: We have been associated with European Union representations to the Chinese authorities about provision for non-governmental organisations at the world conference on women.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he had made to the United Nations regarding the practice of using geographical rotation to choose the venue for the United Nations conference on women irrespective of the human rights record of a country. [26899]

Mr. Hogg: None.

Indonesia

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent meetings have been held with the Government of Indonesia concerning human rights abuse; and if he will make a statement. [27088]

Mr. Goodlad: We continue to take every appropriate opportunity to urge the Indonesian Government to continue to improve their human rights record.

The issue was raised by my right hon. and noble Friend the Minister for Overseas Development during her recent visit to Indonesia.

Bangladesh

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers from his Department have visited Bangladesh in each of the last three years. [26992]

Mr. Baldry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited Bangladesh in January 1995. I visited in November 1994.

Facility Trips (Journalists)

Mr. Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list facility trips abroad which have been granted to British newspaper journalists in the last two years. [25907]

Mr. Baldry: The details are as follows:

Date of visit	*Destination*	*Number in press party (journalists)*
1–4 June 1993	Romania Bulgaria Macedonia	4
6–8 September 1993	UAE Saudi Arabia	7
22–24 October 1993	Syria	6
3–7 January 1994	Lebanon Israel Occupied Territories Jordan Malta	10
19–20 January 1994	Turkey	2
4–11 April 1994	Brazil Falklands	2
22–24 May 1994	Russia Ukraine	3
11–20 September 1994	Thailand Vietnam Hong Kong Japan	2
12–14 October 1994	Kuwait Bahrain Saudi Arabia Jordan Syria Turkey	16
4 December 1994	Former Yugoslavia	11
3–9 January 1995	Bangladesh India Pakistan	1 (4 others—Lahore/ Islamabad leg only)
13–14 February 1995	Sweden	1
11–12 April 1995	Slovakia Poland	2

In all cases, journalists are charged for air and ground transportation.

Kashmir

Mr. Heppell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the burning of the Mosque and village of Charar-e-Sharief in Kashmir on Thursday 11 May. [25447]

Mr. Baldry: We deeply regret the burning of the village of Charar-e-Sharief in Kashmir and its historic shrine. We have urged all sides to exercise restraint. We shall continue to try to promote a peaceful solution in Kashmir.

ENVIRONMENT

Water Disconnections

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many households had their water supply disconnected as a result of non-payment of bills in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England in each since 1989. [31583]

Mr. Atkins: Information on disconnections is not available in the form requested. The Director General of Water Services publishes data on disconnections twice a year in Ofwat news releases, by water company area. Copies of Ofwat news releases are in the library.

Chlorinated Paraffins

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what consideration he has given to the environmental case for phasing out the production of chlorinated paraffins. [31875]

Mr. Atkins: The production and use of short-chain chlorinated paraffins are being examined currently by the Department of the Environment in the context of EC regulation No. 793/93 on the evaluation and control of existing substances to determine the extent to which they pose a risk to the environment. The outcome of this examination will be used to determine whether control measures may be necessary.

Single Regeneration Budget

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list for each local authority the current single regeneration budget in cash terms and per head of the pollution. [31679]

Sir Paul Beresford: Single regeneration budget resources are not allocated or recorded by references to local authority districts. Many schemes and initiatives supported by the SRB, including the challenge fund element, relate to a range of geographical and administrative areas, and funding is directed to a range of bodies such as training and enterprise councils and voluntary groups in addition to local authorities.

Education Standard Spending Assessment

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list by cash value the education standard spending assessment for 1995–96 for each of the 38 shire counties for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education. [31686]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Winteron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment by what percentage, and by what cash value, the education standard spending assessment for 1995–96 for Cheshire differs from *(a)* the average such education standard spending assessment and *(b)* the highest such education standard spending assessment, for (i) all education authorities, (ii) shire counties, (iii) north-west education authorities and (iv) London boroughs. [31687]

Mr. Jones: The 1995-96 education standard spending assessment for Cheshire is £332.027 million. The figures requested are given in the table:

	Amount £ million	*Absolute difference from Cheshire £ million*	*Percentage difference from Cheshire Per cent.*
Average English local education authority	156.184	175.843	113
Average shire county	264.864	67.163	25
Average North West local education authority	135.438	196.589	145
Average London borough	84.888	247.139	291
Highest English local education authority (Kent)	559.063	–227.036	–41
Highest shire county (Kent)	559.063	–227.036	–41
Highest North West local education authority (Lancashire)	483.978	–151.951	–31
Highest London borough (Newham)	123.810	208.217	168

The following table expresses differences from figures for Cheshire in terms of £ per head of resident population, with Cheshire's figure being £341 per head. It therefore takes account of numbers of people resident within each local education authority's area.

	Amount (£ per resident)	*Absolute difference from cheshire (£ per resident)*	*Percentage difference from Cheshire (Per cent.)*
Average for all English local education authorities	351	–10	–3
Average for shire counties	333	9	3
Average for North West	360	–18	–5
Average for London boroughs	404	–63	–16

	Amount (£ per resident)	Absolute difference from cheshire (£ per resident)	Percentage difference from Cheshire (Per cent.)
Highest English local education authority (Tower Hamlets)	710	-369	-52
Highest shire county (Bedfordshire)	393	-52	-13
Highest North West local education authority (Knowsley)	449	-108	-24
Highest London borough (Tower Hamlets)	710	-369	-52

Mrs. Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will identify and quantify the factors which were taken into account when establishing Cheshire's education standard spending assessment for 1995–96 [31688]

Mr. Jones: Information on the factors which were taken into account when establishing the education standard spending assessment for 1995–96 for every English local education authority is available in the Local Government Finance Report (England) 1995–96 and "Standard Spending Assessments: Guide to Methodology 1995–96" edition, both of which are available in the Library.

Information on the amounts used in establishing the education standard spending assessment for Cheshire county council for 1995–96 was sent to Cheshire county council on 31 January.

Area Cost Adjustment

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what value of area cost adjustment is proposed for 1995–6 for *(a)* Bedfordshire, *(b)* Hertfordshire, *(c)* Leicestershire and *(d)* Cheshire; and if he will specify in each case how that figure was calculated. [31690]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: Full details of the value of the area cost adjustment for all English local authorities which benefited from that adjustment are available in the Library. The information covers the years 1991–92 to 1995–96.

The methodology that is used to calculate the area cost adjustment is set out in the departmental publication, "Standard Spending Assessments: Guide to Methodology 1995–96". A copy of this publication has been placed in the Library.

Fire Safety

Lady Olga Maitland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what conclusions he has reached on the study his Department has been making of fire safety in large single storey buildings. [32591]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: In February last year, a deputation of senior fire officers and representatives of building control and the insurance industry, came to see my predecessor, the hon. Member for Banbury (Mr. Baldry), about fire safety in single storey buildings with large undivided spaces. They were concerned about the safety of firefighters, as well as people within such buildings should they catch fire, and also about the possible pollution and large financial loss that might result. Buildings of this type are found throughout the country as supermarkets, factories and warehouses.

Recognising that if these buildings are to fulfil their functions properly they should not have to be divided into small fire compartments, the deputation recommended that the guidance issued on how to comply with building regulations should be changed so that when new buildings of these types exceeding 4000 sq m were being designed and constructed, a sprinkler system should be incorporated.

Although my Department had reviewed this aspect of the guidance not long before, my predecessor asked that a further study should be made of the fire safety of this type of building taking into account recent fires. This has now been done with the assistance of the Fire Research Station of the Building Research Establishment, the Fire Advisory Panel and the Building Regulations Advisory Committee.

This work has shown that while there may be a case for accepting the deputation's proposal in some respects, it is finely balanced and more time is needed to acquire better information on certain important factors before consultation can take place on detailed technical proposals. However, the following general conclusions have been reached:

(i) a case can be made for sprinklers in new retail single storey buildings with compartments exceeding 4000 square metres, in the interests of occupant and firefighter safety; but a similar case has not been made from the available data for large compartment single storey industrial storage buildings;

(ii) the guidance on measures to restrict fire spread through voids in these sorts of building should be reconsidered, with firefighter safety in mind as well as the occupants. Similarly we should take steps to improve the design and construction of fire barriers;

(iii) automatic smoke ventilation without sprinklers in buildings with low ceilings does not appear to be beneficial to occupants threatened by very fast-growing fires;

(iv) a case can be made for there to be a minimum 4 metre ceiling height in new retail single storey buildings over 4000 square metres, as an additional measure to sprinklers;

(v) the deputation drew attention to fires in which large insulating wall and ceiling panels seem to have been a significant feature. We plan to study the fire implications of the use of these panels in buildings such as cold stores and food factories, with a view to amending guidance or sponsoring a code of practice if appropriate.

My right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary is considering the implications for existing occupied buildings if these proposals were to be adopted in building regulations.

In the light of the above, I have asked my officials, in liaison with other Departments and taking account of the advice of the Building Regulations Advisory Committee, to prepare a consultation document covering issues (i) and (iv) above, if possible to be issued by the end of this year.

To the extent that it is possible within that time scale the other issues will also be addressed, but items (ii) and (v) in particular are likely to require research and may take considerably more time to resolve. The consultation paper will cover revisions to the whole of the part B approved document, and will therefore incorporate other suggested changes to that part which have arisen since it was last revised in December 1991. Any relevant conclusions from the interdepartmental scrutiny of fire safety legislation and enforcement, on which a separate statement is being made, will also be incorporated.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Barnes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the *(a)* monthly and *(b)* annual change in the numbers of asylum seekers accepted as homeless by local authorities under the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993. [30546]

Mr. Robert B. Jones *[holding answer 26 June 1995]:* The data collected from local authorities in England on the numbers of households for which they accept responsibility to secure permanent accommodation under the homelessness provisions of the Housing Act 1985 have, since the beginning of 1994, included the numbers accepted after being granted asylum. The available data are as follows:

	Acceptance of former asylum seekers	*Percentage change on previous quarter*
Quarter 1 1994	300	n/a
Quarter 2 1994	260	–13
Quarter 3 1994	210	–19
Quarter 4 1994	250	+19
Quarter 1 1995	250	0

Director General of Water Services

Mr. Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what was the salary of the water regulator for each year since the post was established; and what is the percentage change in his earnings since the post's establishment in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* real terms. [31539]

Mr. Atkins] *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* Mr. Ian Byatt was appointed as Director General of Water Services from 1 August 1989 at an initial salary of £59,800 per annum; salary increases since his appointment are listed in the following table:

Director General of Water Services

Year	*Salary* £	*Percentage change Cash terms*	*Real terms*
April 1990	63,390	6.00	–1.9
January 1991	64,300	1.44	–2.5
April 1991	69,120	7.50	+5.2
December 1991	70,400	1.85	–0.1
April 1992	73,216	4.00	+1.7
April 1993	75,328	2.90	+1.6
April 1994	79,396	5.40	+2.8
April 1995	81,381	2.50	–0.8

Dounreay

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what action his Department has taken to date in respect of the RM Consultants report published in 1991 in relation to the Dounreay reprocessing plant; and if he will make a statement. [31207]

Sir Hector Monro: I have been asked to reply.

RM Consultants were commissioned by the then Scottish Development Department to look at a range of engineering options for the management of radioactive wastes in the Dounreay shaft. Following the publication of that report, HM industrial pollution inspectorate required the UK Atomic Energy Authority to carry out further studies aimed at identifying a clear strategy for the long-term management of that waste. Given the novel nature of the problems that had to be addressed these studies have taken some time and the results are not yet available.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Judicial Appointments

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department on how many occasions judicial appointments have been vetoed by the Prime Minister in each of the last 10 years. [30761]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Senior judicial appointments at the level of the Court of Appeal and above in England and Wales are made by the Queen on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

Primary Legislation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, pursuant to his answer of 15 June, *Official Report,* column *606,* what assessment he has made of the acceptability of one third of primary legislation readily available to members of the public in its current amended form; and if he will make a statement. [31036]

Mr. John M. Taylor: I have not received any representations from members of the public relating to the availability of primary legislation in its current amended form. Work towards the implementation of the statute law database system at the Statutory Publications Office is now well advanced. This system will provide the opportunity to meet the needs of all who require improved access to primary legislation in its current amended form.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, pursuant to his answer of 15 June, *Official Report,* column *606,* if he will set target dates for raising the proportion of primary legislation readily available to hon. Members and the general public in its current amended form above *(a)* 50 per cent. and *(b)* 75 per cent. [31035]

Mr. Taylor: No. The editorial task of applying the effects of new legislation to the database will be approached in strict chronological sequence. The target date for completion of the exercise is March 1997.

Small Claims

Mr. Peter Atkinson: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if proposals to increase the small claims limit will be subject to a full consultation process; and if he will make a statement. [30948]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Lord Woolf consulted widely in the preparation of his interim report. In view of this, the Lord Chancellor does not intend to undertake further public consultation on whether he should implement Lord Woolf's recommendation that the limit for small claims, other than those for personal injury, should be raised to £3,000. The power to make the necessary amendments rests with the county court rule committee who, as part of its consideration of the matter, consults interested parties.

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will make it his policy that any increase in the small claims court limit will be in line with the rate of inflation since July 1991. [30949]

Mr. Taylor: The present limit of £1,000 does not reflect the value of many cases which would be appropriate for disposal in the small claims forum, including straightforward claims relating to home extensions and improvements, family holidays or major car repairs. In order to make this cheaper and less formal procedure available to litigants with this type of claim it would not be sufficient simply to raise the limit in line with inflation.

TREASURY

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by how much has Government spending changed in 1994–95 as a result of the private finance initiative; what is the estimated effect in 1995–96; how many jobs are to be created by schemes approved to date under the initiative and how many have been lost as a consequence in the public sector; and what is the forecast of transfer of employment from public to private sector over the last five years because of the initiative. [30825]

Sir George Young *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* The presence of private finance and management expertise will often allow projects that would not have gone ahead under conventional procurement either to go ahead, or to go ahead earlier. However, many factors were taken into account in determining priorities for public expenditure in 1994–95 and 1995–96, and it is not possible to measure the impact of the initiative in isolation.

Records are not kept centrally of the effect of the initiative on patterns of employment, but the number of jobs transferred from public to private sector as a result of the initiative to date is small. As the initiative allows more and better projects to go ahead, it will tend to create jobs, particularly in the private sector.

Astra plc

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what were the responsibilities of J. W. Cassey within Her Majesty's Customs and Excise; and in what capacity he visited the headquarters of Astra plc in April 1990. [31435]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* Mr. J. W. Cassey was employed in Customs and Excise between February 1972 and January 1990.

Any visit made by him to Astra plc in April 1990 would not have been on behalf of Customs and Excise.

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list by convenient category the documents removed from Astra plc and its subsidiaries which are retained by his Department. [31436]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* No. It is not Customs' practice to make public details of documents taken up during the course of inquiries, other than those revealed in the course of legal proceedings, lest such details cause unfairness to individuals or prejudice current or future investigations or proceedings.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what were the dates and periods of service on behalf of Customs and Excise of Mr. V. W. Cassey. [30090]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: Customs and Excise has no record of currently or having previously employed a Mr. V. W. Cassey.

A Mr. J. W. Cassey was employed in Customs and Excise between February 1972 and January 1990.

CS Gas

Ms Clwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what quantities of CS gas equipment are shown by Customs and Excise records to have been exported to Indonesia in each year since 1985. [31760]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* Export trade relating specifically to CS gas—o–Chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile—and "CS Gas Equipment", is not identifiable within the trade statistics.

ECOFIN

Ms Primarolo: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the discussions held at ECOFIN on 19 June. [31609]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave in response to a very similar question from my hon. Friend the Member for Southport (Mr. Banks) on 29 June *Official Report*, columns 772–73.

Inland Revenue Computer Contract

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the original estimate of the cost of the Inland Revenue's computer contract with EDS; what is the current estimate; and if he will make a statement. [31645]

Sir George Young: When the Inland Revenue signed a 10–year outsourcing contract with EDS in May 1994, its estimated value based on the work load identified in the invitation to tender was £1 billion, which represented a potential saving of £225 million over the in-house costs.

The Inland Revenue and EDS have since agreed that the costs attributable to the work and resources transferred in the first phase of the tranche, in July 1994, were greater than those in the ITT. This increase in work load, which is largely due to the transfer of planned expenditure from third party suppliers to EDS, will increase the value of the contract by £250 million over 10 years. As the adjustment is on a broadly pound–for–pound basis, it does not increase the Department's overall expenditure nor decrease the potential savings.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what are the implications of the current difficulties with the Inland Revenue computer project for the timetable for the introduction of self-assessment; and if he will make a statement. [31644]

Sir George Young: Self-assessment will be introduced in 1997 as originally planned. The Inland Revenue and its IT services suppliers, EDS, are fully committed to the successful delivery of self-assessment.

Departmental Computer Systems

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions there have been between his Department and the Department of Social Security over the possible merger of the Department of Social Security and Inland Revenue computer systems; and if he will make a statement. [31646]

Sir George Young: There are no plans to merge the computer services supporting the operations of the Inland Revenue and Department of Social Security and there have been no discussions on such a merger between the two Departments.

Register of Conditionally Exempted Works of Art

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the estimated total market value of the items on the register of conditionally exempted works of art. [31873]

Sir George Young: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Treasury Solicitors

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if any of the Treasury Solicitors acting or advising in the case against former directors of Astra under the Company Directors Disqualification Act had, in any capacity within legal services of Government, acted or advised in the case of R *v.* Henderson, Allen and Abraham. [30786]

The Attorney-General: I have been asked to reply. Mr. Leithead and Mr. Howes of the Treasury Solicitor's Department, who are acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in the case referred to, advised in the case of R *v.* Henderson, Allen and Abraham.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what were the previous posts and duties within the Government service of Sir Gerald Hooper, Mr. Leitzead and Mr. Howes of the Treasury Solicitor's Department. [30782]

The Attorney-General: I have been asked to reply. The question is understood to refer to Sir Gerald Hosker, Mr. Leithead and Mr. Howes. The information is as follows:

Sir Gerald Hosker KCB QC

1960–66: Legal assistant: conveyancing duties

1966–72: Senior legal assistant: legal advice to the Air Ministry and the Ministry of Defence

1973–87: Successively as assistant Treasury Solicitor, principal assistant Treasury Solicitor and deputy Treasury Solicitor: legal advice to Her Majesty's Treasury and associated Departments.

1984–87: Duties as deputy Treasury Solicitor

1987–92: Duties as solicitor to the Department of Trade and Industry

1992 to date: Duties as HM Procurator General, Treasury Solicitor and Queen's Proctor.

Mr. Leithead

1977 to date: Senior legal assistant and from 1982 assistant Treasury Solicitor: legal advice to and civil litigation for the Department of Trade and Industry, the Office of Fair Trading, the Export Credits Guarantee Department, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and related bodies, and some specialist advice on litigation both civil and criminal.

Mr. Howes

1971–77: Legal assistant and from 1976 senior legal assistant: conduct of prosecutions and civil litigation on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Security

1977–79: Senior legal assistant: advice to the DHSS on employment law and industrial tribunal work

1979–81: Senior legal assistant: advice on employment law and industrial tribunal work for various Government Departments as a member of the Treasury Solicitor's Department

1981–83 Senior legal assistant: European Community litigation

1983–86: Senior legal assistant: Chancery and charity litigation, public inquiries and Lands Tribunal work

1986 to date: Senior legal assistant and from 1989 grade 6: conduct of litigation for the Office of Fair Trading and the Department of Trade and Industry

NATIONAL HERITAGE

Millennium Fund

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (i) how many bids were made for millennium funding; and what percentage of them were successful *(a)* in England and *(b)* in London; [31999]

(2) in which parliamentary constituency each successful millennium bid is situated; and how much each successful project was awarded. [32000]

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage in what respect the university of Ulster—peaceline campus of the new millennium project did not meet the Millennium Commission criteria. [31317]

Mr. Dorrell: These are matters for the Millennium Commission. I shall reply to the hon. Members in my capacity as chairman of the commission and place copies of my replies in the Libraries of the House.

Radio Authority

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if he will issue guidance to the Radio Authority that efficient use of the spectrum will be assessed by reference to the potential audience reach of the services involved. [31946]

Mr. Dorrell: Section 123 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 requires that the Radio Authority's frequency planning work must be directed towards securing that the frequencies assigned to the authority are used as efficiently as is reasonably practicable. Potential audience demand is one of the factors taken into account by the Radio Authority in discharging this responsibility.

Trafalgar Square, London

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what proposals his Department has on filling the empty plinth in Trafalgar square, London; and if he will make a statement. [31498]

Mr. Sproat: I am aware that Miss Prudence Leith, OBE, chairman elect of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, is putting proposals together for a statue to go on the empty plinth, which she intends to submit to the Department later this year. We shall carefully consider any proposals received. Under the Public Statute Metropolis Act 1854, the Secretary of State must approve the erection of any statute in London.

Television Franchise Bids

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what representations he has received on allowing ITV companies to negotiate their franchise bids earlier than the Broadcasting Act 1990 currently allows to free money for programming; and what response he has made. [31917]

Mr. Dorrell: None.

BBC (Transmission facilities)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what plans he has to privatise the BBC's transmission facilities. [31908]

Mr. Dorrell: We are considering the options for the future of the BBC's transmission service and will announce our decision in due course.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) by how much Government spending has changed in 1994–95 as a result of the private finance initiative; what is the estimated effect in 1995–96; how many jobs are to be created by schemes approved to date under the initiative and how many have been lost as a consequence in the public sector; and what is the forecast of transfer of employment from public to private sector over the last five years because of the initiative; [30839]

(2) how many schemes and to what value have been approved in 1994–95 under the private finance initiative; what are the estimates for the current financial year; how many schemes are currently being considered and at what value; for how long have they been considered and how many have been in the assessment process for over *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months; and what was the average length of time taken to assess schemes so far approved. [30838]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* My Department operates mainly through its many sponsored bodies and agencies and undertakes little expenditure on its own account. Its effort is therefore largely devoted to encouraging those whom it sponsors to exploit to the full in their own capital programmes the opportunities of the private finance initiative. The cost of this effort within the Department is about £65,000 a year.

One PFI project has so far required to be approved by my Department—the move of the Royal Armouries from the Tower of London to Leeds. The proposal was submitted in May 1992 and approval was given in December 1993. The total cost of the project is £42.5 million. The public sector contribution comprises: £20 million, financed by the Historic Royal Agency from increased receipts at the Tower of London; £5 million from Leeds development corporation; and £3.5 million from Leeds city council. The effect on public sector manpower is neutral, but the project will increase opportunities for private sector employment.

No projects required departmental approval in 1994–95. A number of projects are at various stages of consideration by my Department's sponsored bodies in the current—1995–96—financial year. Of these, it is not possible to estimate the number that will require departmental approval.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Arable Area Payments Scheme

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what recent representations he has received concerning the need for greater flexibility in the arable area payments scheme; and if he will make a statement. [31940]

Mr. Jack: Representations have been received from a wide range of agricultural and environmental bodies concerning proposals issued for consultation on 11 May on exchanges of eligible and ineligible land. These are being considered and details of any arrangements for 1996 will be included in the arable area payments explanatory guide 1995–96 due to be published this summer.

Mrs. Winterton: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what action his Department is taking to achieve provision for swapping of eligible and ineligible land under the terms of the arable area payments scheme; and whether those changes will be in place for 1996 integrated administration and control system claims. [31939]

Mr. Jack: A consultation document was issued on 11 May 1995 outlining in broad terms proposals for the conditions under which exchanges of eligible for ineligible land might be permitted. Representations are now being considered and I would expect shortly to take a decision on any arrangements for 1996 claims. Details of any changes will be included in the arable area payments explanatory guide for 1995–96, due to be published this summer.

Mrs. Winterton: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what proposals the European Commission has so far brought forward to ease the setting up of individual base areas in the context of the arable area payments scheme; and if he will summarise them; and what response he has made. [31937]

Mr. Jack: The European Commission has not put forward any proposals on this subject.

Agriculture Council

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make a statement summarising the decisions taken by the December 1994 meeting of the Agriculture Council in relation to greater flexibility in defining land eligibility under the arable area payments scheme; and what action subsequently has been taken by his Department in relation to those decisions. [31938]

Mr. Jack: At the December 1993 Agriculture Council that agreement was reached, subject to terms to be determined, on greater flexibility on land eligibility. In August 1994, EC Commission implementing regulations were brought into force establishing eligibility for land growing certain multi-annual crops on 31 December 1991; providing for the declaration of new land as eligible following compulsory purchase; for exchanges of land under certain circumstances and for structure plans in certain other member states.

In the light of UK representations, the EC Commission subsequently recognised concerns over conflict between the terms of the Council agreement as laid down in EC Council regulations 1765/92 and the Commission implementing regulations, and indicated that it would consider corrective changes. The Commission determined finally not to take such regulatory action and restricted further amending provisions, which came into force on 22 April 1995, to detailed rules of exchanges of eligible land.

Details on the application of these changes, including any arrangements resulting from consultation on a UK plan for exchanges of eligible land, will be contained in the arable area payments explanatory guide for 1995–96 due to be published this summer.

Butter Council (Advertising)

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what action he intends to take to counter the Butter Council's use of European funds to finance advertisements against the margarine industry; and if he will make a statement. [32098]

Mr. Jack: A final decision on EC funding for the Butter Council's advertising campaign will be taken by the intervention board when the Council completes its contract later this year. The board will take account of the views which have been expressed by the Advertising Standards Authority on the advertisements. In the meantime, with the Government's support, the EC Commission has decided to prohibit negative comparative advertising in future contracts under the EC scheme for promoting the consumption of milk and milk products.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Metropolitan Police Committee

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Metropolitan police committee has now met; what advice it has proffered to him; and what action has been taken in response to its advice. [32002]

Mr. Maclean: The Metropolitan police committee has held five full committee meetings, various meetings of subgroups and a number of meetings with representatives of the Metropolitan police and local bodies. The committee's advice to the Secretary of State is confidential. Since 1 April 1995 the Home Secretary's actions as police authority for the Metropolitan police have been informed by the Metropolitan police committee's advice.

Elected Police Authority

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice he has received from serving police officers, including senior officers within the Metropolitan police service, regarding the establishment of an elected police authority for London. [32001]

Mr. Maclean: Any advice that Ministers may have received on this topic would be confidential.

Political Asylum

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the average time and cost to public funds of processing each application for political asylum. [31852]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: For applications for asylum received since implementation of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 and decided in the last six months the estimated average time to process each application is 7.8 months. The average cost of processing each application in the asylum division was £165.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have sought political asylum in the United Kingdom in each of the last three years; and how many applications have been granted. [31856]

Mr. Baker: The information requested is published in table 1.1 of Home Office statistical bulletin issue 15/95 "Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 1994", a copy of which is in the Library.

Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will investigate the reasons for the time taken to consider a request by the Dart harbour and navigation authority for an amendment to its byelaws. [31855]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: My right hon. and noble Friend the Minister of State has considered the matter, which my hon. Friend raised in his letter to her of 6 June, and has today written to him.

Miss A. O. Bamgbose

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the report on Miss A. O. Bamgbose was sent by Becket house to the entry clearance officer in Lagos, Nigeria. [32210]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: On 27 March 1995.

Council Property

Mr. Sedgemore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what was the purpose of the meeting held on 31 October 1994 between his Department's officials from the immigration service, Ms Arnfield, Ms Hutcheson and Mr. McCormack on the one hand and Mr. Bernard Crofton and Mr. K. Ostler of Hackney's tenancy audit team on the other: [32166]

(2) what was the status of Mr. Bernard Crofton with Hackney council when he met immigration service officials on 31 October 1994; and what information on this status was available to the officials concerned. [32165]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Following the suspension of Mr. Croften from his post of director of housing at Hackney council, Mr. Ostler sought a meeting to establish that the immigration service would continue to co-operate with an investigation by Mr. Ostler's tenancy audit team into the misuse of council property, which had already led to the apprehension of a number of immigration offenders and the return of several properties to the council. The officials confirmed that they would continue to co-operate with the tenancy audit team.

Emergency Calls

Mr. Gareth Wardell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds and at what level of detail, on the number of 999 calls received by central fire control headquarters in each authority in England and Wales. [31659]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The information requested is not held centrally.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the number of people from *(a)* Sri Lanka, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* India and *(d)* Kenya seeking asylum and being held in detention as of 19 June. [31372]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The available information is that as at 28 June 1995, 22 Sri Lankans, 22 Pakistanis, 91 Indians and six Kenyans who had sought asylum were held in detention. These include people awaiting removal following refusal of the application, as well as those whose applications were under consideration or subject to appeal.

Prison Searches

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many body and cell searches took place in Holloway prison during the week of 19 June. [31276]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Brian Landers to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 3 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question about Holloway prison.

Holloway conducted 103 cell searches during the week of 19 June. They also conducted 449 strip searches, which would have occurred as part of cell searches; on reception and discharge; after visits; or as part of the mandatory drug testing programme. Prisoners would also have been subject to rub down searches routinely as they moved around the establishment.

Boot Camps

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information he has received from the United States on the effectiveness of boot camps. [30987]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: Copies of the readily available published reports have been placed in the Library. I have also received advice from officials.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what have been the findings of his Department about boot camps. [30985]

Mr. Forsyth: My right hon. and learned Friend hopes to be able to make an announcement shortly.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has conducted as to the proportion of inmates in youth detention centres in the early 1980s who had been *(a)* in care and *(b)* were illiterate; and what are the implications of these findings for boot camps. [30986]

Mr. Forsyth: A report, "Tougher Regimes in Detention Centres", was produced in 1984. This report incorporated findings as to the proportion of inmates found to have been in care or illiterate in six detention centres during the period May 1979 to September 1980. In 1991, the national prison survey found that the proportion of young offender population who had spent time in care was very similar to that shown by the 1984 report.

A proposal to introduce a new regime for young offenders based on the more positive aspects of American boot camps is under consideration. Any new regime that is introduced will take into account current knowledge about the backgrounds and attainments of young offenders.

Recidivism

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made as to the extent to which broadening the range and scope of training for offenders reduces recidivism. [30989]

Mr. Maclean: There have been a number of studies on reconviction rates associated with different sentences, including "Explaining Reconviction Rates: a critical analysis", HORS No 136, although these studies have not specifically assessed the impact of training upon reconviction rates.

We will be evaluating the effectiveness of seven new Home Office training projects announced in May. These projects will fund seven training and enterprise councils to help offenders in the community improve their training and their job prospects. The evaluation will include a reconviction study.

Justice and Home Affairs Council

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the matters discussed and decisions taken at the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council in Luxembourg; and if he will indicate those matters where votes were taken. [31069]

Mr. Howard: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge (Sir M. Shersby) on 22 June, at *columns 405–6.* The items agreed by the Justice and Home Affairs Council were adopted by unanimity, in accordance with the relevant provisions of title VI of the treaty on European Union.

Civil Servants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 2 May, *Official Report,* column *121,* if he will provide comparable details on civil service early retirement packages on grounds of inefficiency. [29297]

Mr. Howard *[holding answer 19 June 1995]:* Inefficiency is a ground for dismissal. Accrued superannuation benefits, which vary for individual members of staff, would normally be preserved for payment at retiring age. Departments may, however, make an immediate lump sum payment of up to two years' salary in cases where compensation is thought to be appropriate; in the case of persons aged over 55, this may be forgone in favour of immediate payment of accrued superannuation benefits. We have no record in the Home Office, excluding agencies, of any compensation payments being made, or of the alternative immediate payment of accrued superannuation benefits, in recent years.

Special Constables

Mr. Churchill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been achieved to date in the drive to recruit 30,000 special constables by the end of 1996. [31763]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* Public response to our recruitment campaign has been very encouraging. Over 38,500 members of the public responded to our advertising and have expressed an interest in joining the special constabulary. Many have gone on to make preliminary applications and these have been passed to police forces. We hope that a significant number of these applications are successful.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Internet (Government Information)

37. **Sir Graham Bright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what representations he has received from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations who access Government information via the Internet. [30157]

Mr. Horam: The majority of representations have been to CCTA, the Government centre for information systems, which manages the worldwide web server on which most Government information on the Internet is made available. There have been 3,000 responses to the comments page of the server, and more than 1,200 contributors to the collaborative open group. Formal submissions and letters have also been received about CCTA's study into the ethical issues relating to information superhighways.

39. **Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what representations he has received from organisations requesting more Government information on the Internet. [30159]

Mr. Horam: There have been a number of suggestions made to CCTA, the Government centre for information systems, which manages the world wide web server on which most Government information on the Internet is made available. CCTA is discussing with the relevant Departments what further information can be added to the CCTA Government information service, which is expanding every week.

Science Week 1995

38. **Mr. Coe:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what representations from broadcasters he has received following Science Week 1995. [30158]

Mr. David Hunt: I have already had meetings with John Birt and Alan Yentob, both of whom were delighted with the success of Science Week 1995. They have already promised the 1996 week their full support.

Citizens Charters

Mr. Barry Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans the Government have to involve citizens in the formulation of the citizens charter. [30150]

Mr. Horam: Consultation with people who use services is a key charter principle. Services should talk to their users to find out what they want before making decisions about standards and priorities. Service providers are actively encouraged to involve users when preparing charters and setting standards and are given guidance and help by Departments and the charters unit.

Many service providers involve users when revising national and local charters. For example, the Department of Health asked the public what standards they would want in the revised patients charter. The reduction in waiting time targets, and the inclusion of patients' rights when using NHS dentists and standards for children's services were a result of this consultation. The tenants charter published in June 1995 also benefited from user feedback.

Medical Research

Dr. Charles Goodson-Wickes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent studies he has made of the funding of medical research. [30145]

Mr. David Hunt: After careful studies I announced earlier this year an increase of 3.2 per cent. in the Medical Research Council budget to £277.8 million. The Department of Health will spend £413 million on research and research-related activity in 1995–96, an increase of 7.3 per cent.

Climate Change

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what advice he has given to the Economic and Social Research Council concerning the provision of funds for research into the economics of climate change other than those based on cost-benefit analysis. [30376]

Mr. Horam: None.

Public Administration Pay Bill

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Plymouth, Sutton (Mr. Streeter) on 26 June 1995, *Official Report*, column *462*, what information he has on the total cost of the public administration pay bill for the years *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 corresponding to the departmental staff totals given in the letter placed in the Library; and if he will give the figure for total staff in all departments on 1 April provided in the figures for 1 April 1994 in the documents placed in the Library. [32382]

Mr. David Hunt: Information on the total pay bill for *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* estimated outturn for 1994–95 can be found in table 3.7 of "Public Expenditure Statistical Supplement to the Financial Statement and Budget Report 1995–96", Cm 2821, copies of which are in the Library. Figures for total staff in all home civil service Departments, excluding Northern Ireland civil service Departments, can be found in "Civil Service Staff in Post Summary at 1 April 1994" and "Civil Service Staff in Post Summary at 1 April 1995", copies of which are in the Library. Staff numbers for Northern Ireland civil service Departments for 1993–94 and estimated outturn for 1994–95 can be found in table 12.7 of "Northern Ireland Expenditure Plans and Priorities", Cm 2816, a copy of which is also in the Library. Figures for Northern Ireland civil service Departments at 1 April each year are not available.

House of Commons Disqualification Act

Dr. Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people are covered by the disqualifying reasons in each of the disqualifying categories of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975; [31518]

(2) how many bodies have been *(a)* added to and *(b)* deleted from the list of disqualifying bodies under the House of Commons Disqualification Act schedule since 1979; and if he will list them;

(3) what is the total number of people currently covered by the disqualification provisions of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975; and what was the equivalent figure in 1979; [31516]

(4) what considerations as to the time which would have to be taken by other duties or offices underlay the schedule of disqualifying offices under the terms of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975; [31528]

(5) how many people are currently covered by each of the disqualifying categories of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975. [31517]

Mr. Horam: The number of persons disqualified for membership of the House of Commons under the provisions of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 is as follows:

Category	*Numbers disqualified (rounded)*
Employed in the Civil Service of the Crown	
Home Civil Service	520,100 (at December 1994)
Northern Ireland Civil Service	21,800 (at March 1995)
Northern Ireland Court Service	680 (at December 1994)
Diplomatic Service	3,930 (at April 1995)
Forestry Commission	3,870 (at December 1994)
Royal Hospital Chelsea	200 (established)
Armed Forces of the Crown or the Ulster Defence Regiment	
Armed Forces	237,000 (at June 1995)
Royal Irish Regiment[1]	5,000 (established)
Police Forces	
England and Wales	126,600 (at December 1994)
Scotland	14,200 (at April 1994)
Northern Ireland	12,200 (at December 1994)
Members of Non-Commonwealth Legislatures	not estimated
Schedule 1 of the Act	
Part I: Holders of Judicial Office	896 (at June 1993)
Part II: All members of certain bodies	3,503 (at June 1993)
Part III: Other disqualifying offices	81,439 (at June 1993)
Part IV: Those covered by limited disqualification	197 (at June 1993)

[1] The Ulster Defence Regiment was replaced by the Royal Irish Regiment with effect from the 1 July 1992.

The total number of persons currently disqualified under the terms of the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975, excluding members of non-Commonwealth legislatures, is 1,031,615. Figures are updated when orders are made to amend schedule 1 to the Act. No order was made to amend schedule 1 in 1979; but when an order was made in 1982 the equivalent number of persons disqualified was 1,221,520.

Information is not held centrally on the number of offices that have been added to, or deleted from, schedule 1 since 1979. Many offices have been added or removed from schedule 1 by means of primary legislation, as well as by Orders in Council. The latest reprint of the House

of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (No. 14) lists in schedule 1 those offices the holders of which are disqualified for membership.

There are four basic criteria for disqualification under parts II and III of schedule 1 to the 1975 Act. Ministers have explained these to hon. Members over the years and hon. Members have accepted them in the course of affirmative resolution debates. These are:

(i) offices of profit in the gift of the Crown or Ministers—subject to a *de minimis* limit, which is currently £8,000, to prevent trivial disqualification;

(ii) certain positions of control in companies in receipt of Government grants and funds, to which Ministers usually, though not necessarily, make appointments;

(iii) offices imposing duties which with regard to time or place would prevent their holders from fulfilling Parliamentary duties satisfactorily; and

(iv) offices whose holders are required to be, or to be seen to be, politically impartial.

No central record is kept for offices disqualified under parts II and III of schedule 1 as to the disqualifying categories into which they fall.

EDUCATION

Disclosure of Information

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans she has to review the disclosure of information requirements on non-departmental public bodies with particular reference to the Further Education Funding Council. [30152]

Mr. Boswell: My right hon. Friend endorses the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life which propose the adoption by executive non-departmental public bodies of the 1994 "Code of Practice on Access to Government Information" together with the committee's own guidelines. The Further Education Funding Council has published for consultation a draft code on access to information which is in accordance with the committee's proposals.

Young People Leaving Care

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what percentage of young people who left care in each of the past five years for which figures are available is currently in full-time education; [31621]

(2) what percentage of young people who left care in each of the last 10 years *(a)* left school with no formal qualifications, *(b)* gained A-levels or equivalents or *(c)* gained vocational qualifications. [31614]

Mr. Robin Squire: This information is not collected centrally.

Nursery Education

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will list by local education authority for the latest available year the percentage of four-year-olds participating in pre-school education. [31889]

Mr. Forth: The Department does not publish information about four-year-olds alone by local education authority. Information about three and four-year-olds by local education authority in January 1994 was published in statistical bulletin 2/95, a copy of which was placed in the Library.

Sir David Steel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will make a statutory provision for all pre-school children to have access to nursery education. [3220]

Mr. Forth: The Prime Minister has made a commitment to provide, over time, a pre-school place for every four-year-old whose parents wish to take it up, with the first places becoming available during the lifetime of this Parliament. My right hon. Friend will make an announcement on how she plans to implement that commitment when the details have been finalised.

Pupil-teacher Ratios

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information she has concerning the pupil-teacher ratio for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Cheshire, (ii) on average nationally and (iii) on average for shire counties. [31689]

Mr. Robin Squire: Provisional pupil-teacher ratios in maintained primary and secondary schools in England in January 1995 were 22:9 and 16:5 respectively. Figures for Cheshire local education authority and the shire counties will be available in the autumn. Information requested for January 1994, the latest date for which the information requested is available, is shown in the table.

Pupil-teacher ratios in maintained schools in England

January 1994

	Primary schools	*Secondary schools*
Cheshire LEA	23:9	16:8
Shire counties	22:9	16:6
England	22:7	16:4

School Meals

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what percentage of primary school children received free school meals in *(i)* York, *(ii)* North Yorkshire, *(iii)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(iv)* England in each year since 1979. [31588]

Mr. Robin Squire: The available information is shown in the table. Comparable information prior to 1989 is not available although results of earlier school meals censuses were published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy in, for example, "School Meal Statistics at October 1988" copies of which are available in the Library. Information for York is not available.

Numbers and percentages[1] of day pupils taking free school meals in maintained primary school in North Yorkshire local education authority, Yorkshire and Humberside and England

Position in January each year

Year	North Yorkshire LEA		Yorkshire and Humberside		England	
	Pupils	Per cent.	Pupils	Per cent.	Pupils	Per cent.
1989	3,403	6	62,179	15	511,360	13
1990	3,566	6	61,888	14	515,277	13
1991	4,033	7	65,871	15	559,042	14
1992	4,938	9	77,015	18	676,613	17
1993	5,513	9	85,246	19	768,784	18
1994	6,073	10	89,032	19	810,648	19

[1] The number of day pupils who took a free meal on the census day expressed as a percentage of the number of day pupils on roll.

Assisted Places

Mr. French: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will list by reference to each local authority area the number of assisted places at schools within each area. [31525]

Mr. Robin Squire: The number taken up through the Government's assisted places scheme in the academic year 1994–95 at participating schools situated within each local education authority area in England is given in the following table. Many of these schools serve wide catchment areas and may offer places to pupils from outside the local authority area in which they are situated.

Assisted places scheme—academic year 1994–95

Local education authority area	Number of assisted places taken up
Corporation of London	264
Camden	147
Greenwich	204
Hackney	no APS schools
Hammersmith and Fulham	505
Islington	no APS schools
Kensington and Chelsea	no APS schools
Lambeth	164
Lewisham	383
Southwark	654
Tower Hamlets	no APS schools
Wandsworth	377
City of Westminster	170
Barking	no APS schools
Barnet	75
Bexley	no APS schools
Brent	no APS schools
Bromley	223
Croydon	611
Ealing	191
Enfield	no APS schools
Haringey	41
Harrow	203
Havering	no APS schools
Hillingdon	52
Hounslow	no APS schools
Kingston upon Thames	198
Merton	132
Newham	no APS schools
Redbridge	222
Richmond upon Thames	322
Sutton	70
Waltham Forest	139
Birmingham	422
Coventry	281
Dudley	no APS schools
Sandwell	no APS schools
Solihull	466
Walsall	no APS schools
Wolverhampton	267

Assisted places scheme—academic year 1994–95

Local education authority area	Number of assisted places taken up
Knowsley	no APS schools
Liverpool	759
St. Helens	no APS schools
Sefton	691
Wirral	362
Bolton	493
Bury	462
Manchester	964
Oldham	401
Rochdale	no APS schools
Salford	no APS schools
Stockport	379
Tameside	no APS schools
Trafford	95
Wigan	no APS schools
Barnsley	no APS schools
Doncaster	no APS schools
Rotherham	no APS schools
Sheffield	96
Bradford	296
Calderdale	18
Kirklees	270
Leeds	380
Wakefield	318
Gateshead	no APS schools
Newcastle upon Tyne	794
North Tyneside	26
South Tyneside	no APS schools
Sunderland	no APS schools
Avon	1,584
Bedfordshire	505
Berkshire	290
Buckinghamshire	6
Cambridgeshire	648
Cheshire	356
Cleveland	68
Cornwall	211
Cumbria	190
Derbyshire	285
Devon	793
Dorset	168
Durham	154
East Sussex	341
Essex	340
Gloucestershire	95
Hampshire	1,218
Hereford and Worcester	895
Hertfordshire	893
Humberside	307
Isle of Wight	17
Isles of Scilly	no APS schools
Kent	427
Lancashire	987
Leicestershire	372

Assisted places scheme—academic year 1994–95

Local education authority area	*Number of assisted places taken up*
Lincolnshire	215
Norfolk	300
North Yorkshire	255
Northamptonshire	243
Northumberland	no APS schools
Nottinghamshire	400
Oxfordshire	491
Shropshire	123
Somerset	586
Staffordshire	577
Suffolk	488
Surrey	820
Warwickshire	304
West Sussex	118
Wiltshire	89

Grant-maintained Schools, Hampshire

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations her Department has received from local education authority schools in Hampshire regarding the impact of the expansion of, and admissions policy of, grant-maintained schools in Hampshire. [31511]

Mr. Robin Squire: During 1995 the Department has received correspondence from seven local education authority schools objecting to published statutory proposals to expand grant-maintained schools, and from one LEA school about the admission policy of a grant-maintained school.

School Buildings (Safety)

Mr. French: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what requirements are placed on school governors to ensure regular *(a)* structural surveys on school buildings and *(b)* fire safety inspections; and if she will make a statement on whether these responsibilities are being fulfilled. [31527]

Mr. Robin Squire: The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1981 lay down specific requirements governing load-bearing structure, weather protection, health and safety and fire protection.

The Education Act 1944 places a statutory duty on local education authorities and the governors of grant-maintained schools to satisfy themselves that their school buildings comply with the standards set out in the regulations.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Cycling

Mr. Peter Bottomley: To ask the right hon. Member for Berwick upon Tweed as representing the House of Commons Commission (1) what measures the Commission proposes to take to encourage its employees to cycle to work. [30862]

(2) what proposals the Commission has to introduce interest-free loans for the purchase of bicycles to encourage staff of the House to commute to work by bicycle.

Mr. Beith: I shall arrange for the suggestion of loans to be considered, and shall write to the hon. Member. [30861]

NORTHERN IRELAND

Taxi Licences

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what account is taken in the regulations on taxi licences of the transport needs of the disabled. [31420]

Mr. Moss: Belfast public hire taxis first licensed on or after 20 December 1994 must be wheelchair accessible. All other Belfast public hire taxis will have to be wheelchair accessible by 20 December 2000. Arrangements elsewhere in Northern Ireland are currently under consideration.

Royal Ulster Constabulary

Ms Mowlam: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list schools visited by RUC recruiting officers to encourage female and Catholic applicants since January 1994. [31042]

Sir John Wheeler: The Royal Ulster Constabulary is committed to equality of opportunity, and aims to attract applicants from every section of the community.

All schools are contacted by recruiting officers offering literature, careers talks and other information. The type and extent of further contact is up to each school.

Ms Mowlam: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people and what promotions were made within the RUC in 1994; and how many of these were awarded to *(a)* women and *(b)* Catholics. [31041]

Sir John Wheeler: The information requested is as follows:

Promotion—Constable to Sergeant 1994

Stages	*CB1*	*CB2*	*CB3*	*Sub totals*		*Total*	*CB2*	*F*
				M	*F*		*percentage*	*percentage*
Applications	290	18	14	293	29	322	5.6	9.0
Selected	54	2	2	54	4	58	3.4	9.6

All promoted.

Promotion—Sergeant to Inspector 1994

Stages	*CB1*	*CB2*	*CB3*	*Sub totals*		*Total*	*CB2*	*F*
				M	*F*		*percentage*	*percentage*
Applications	153	11	7	161	10	171	6.4	5.9
Selected	39	4	1	42	2	44	9.1	4.6

Twenty two waiting for promotion which includes 3 CB2, 1 female.

Promotion—Inspector to Constable/Sergeant 1994

Stages	*CB1*	*CB2*	*CB3*	*Sub totals*		*Total*	*CB2*	*F*
				M	*F*		*percentage*	*percentage*
Applications	219	21	6	234	12	246	8.5	4.9
Selected	38	7	0	39	6	45	15.6	13.3

Eleven waiting for promotion which includes 1 CB2, 1 female.

Promotion_Constable/Inspector to Superintendent 1994

Stages	*CB1*	*CB2*	*CB3*	*Sub totals*		*Total*	*CB2*	*F*
				M	*F*		*percentage*	*percentage*
Applications	83	10	2	94	1	95	10.5	1.1
Selected	21	3	1	24	1	25	12.0	4.0

Fifteen waiting for promotion which includes 1 CB2.

Notes:

CB1—corresponds to Community Background Protestant.
CB2—corresponds to Community Background Roman Catholic.
CB3—corresponds to Community Background Other unknown.

Ms Mowlam: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officers in the RUC involved in traumatic incidents are currently receiving counselling and rehabilitation. [31043]

Sir John Wheeler: In 1987 the RUC established a post-incident support system providing on-going support to officers who have been involved in a critical incident.

The precise information requested is not available, but since the introduction of this service, a total of 2,611 initial support debriefings have taken place. Since 1 September 1994 there have been 83 referrals.

NHS (Competitive Tendering Costs)

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the total competitive tendering costs for NHS support services for each year since 1990 for each health and social services board, defined so as to include market testing process costs, HPSS staff and consultants, monitoring and contract management costs, redundancy

and early retirement costs, avoidable overhead costs and national insurance costs. [31080]

Mr. Moss: The total expenditure on market testing—competitive tendering—for HPSS support services is given in the table, on a financial year basis since 1990–91. The figures include the expenditure on the market testing process—HPSS staff and consultants; monitoring and contract management; and redundancy and early retirement.

There is no additional expenditure incurred with regard to "avoidable overhead costs". These relate to in-house overheads such as personnel, training, finance, supplies and payroll services which are not included in the direct costs of the in-house service. The estimated costs of these overheads are set against in-house tenders to ensure fair comparison between tenders and calculate the bottom line net savings. They are included only to the extent that they would be saved if a service is contracted out. Outside contractors include such overhead costs in their tenders.

Similarly, there was no additional expenditure incurred against notional insurance costs. The estimates of the costs of insurance are set against in-house tenders to ensure fair comparisons between tenders and the proper calculation of net savings. Outside contractors must have insurance cover and the costs of this are included in their tenders.

All national insurance costs are included in the bids submitted by tenderers, either in-house or commercial, and are therefore not appropriate to these costs.

Total market testing expenditure: HPSS support services—by board area

Board area	*1990–91* £	*1991–92* £	*1992–93* £	*1993–94* £	*1994–95* £
Northern	41,270	65,000	134,000	140,000	148,000
Southern[1]	330,245	554,677	108,878	117,182	128,721
Eastern[2]	632,464	851,531	496,699	464,097	489,232
Western	160,000	678,400	182,000	200,000	220,000

[1] The figures for Southern Board area include those for the HSS Trusts which are based within the area.
[2] The figures for Eastern Board area include those for the HSS Trusts which are based within the area and the Central Services Agency.

Anti-racketeering Investigations

Ms Mowlam: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were arrested in Northern Ireland in 1994 by the anti-racketeering squad; and how many have been successfully prosecuted. [31045]

Sir John Wheeler: Anti-racketeering investigations in 1994 were as follows:

	Number
Persons Arrested	41
Persons Charged	38
Persons Convicted (Including summary proceedings)	28

Note:
Figures do not necessarily relate to the same individuals.

Sheep Scab

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the recorded levels of sheep scab in each of the last five years. [31238]

Mr. Ancram: The information is as follows:

Year	*Cases*
1990	36
1991	46
1992	59
1993	48
1994	71

Private Training Agencies

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public money has been spent, in the further education sector, on private training agencies in each of the past five years. [31424]

Mr. Ancram: This is a matter for the Training and Employment Agency under its chief executive, Mr. Julian Crozier. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from J. S. Crozier to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 30 June 1995:

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me, as Chief Executive of the Training and Employment Agency, to reply to your question.

No public money is given to private sector training agencies to provide training in the further education sector as such.

However money was paid in the last 5 years to private sector training organisations to provide training under the Youth Training Programme and under the Agency's Job Training Programme which offers training to unemployed adults. Such organisations receive from the Agency a weekly block grant paid in respect of each participant on training. They commonly buy training facilities from Further Education colleges out of the block grant. Details of these payments are not provided to the Agency and I am unable therefore to provide the information in the form requested.

However the attached table details the total monies paid over the past 5 years to private sector organisations in the delivery of the Agency's training programmes.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Youth programmes expenditure

	Youth training Paid[1] to private sector £	*Adult training Fees[2] paid to training organisations* £
1990–91	8,881,402	3,379,403
1991–92	10,175,432	4,500,344
1992–93	11,264,446	6,943,978
1993–94	11,742,859	9,447,598
1994–95	12,044,957	11,107,560

[1] The cost of trainee allowances are included in the expenditure and would be approximately 35 per cent. of the total costs.
[2] The amounts represent the total expenditure on adult provision. The Agency does not keep separate details for Private Sector organisations.

Neil Latimer

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress there has been in the

review of the conviction of Neil Latimer; and if he will make a statement. [31953]

Sir John Wheeler: The judgment about guilt or innocence in a criminal case is entirely a matter for the courts and Ministers cannot substitute their own assessments of the evidence in a case for that of the courts.

My right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State has a statutory power to refer a case to the Court of Appeal again. There is, however, a criterion which, consistent with his predecessors, the Secretary of State would normally expect to be fulfilled before he would use this power. It is that there is some new evidence, or other consideration of substance, which has not previously been before the court and which appeared to cast doubt on the safety of the conviction.

Mr. Latimer's case has already been before the courts on three occasions. The first two were the trial of Mr. Latimer and three other UDR soldiers, Winston Allen, Noel Bell and James Hegan, and the subsequent appeal to which they had an automatic right. The third time was in 1991 when, after very careful consideration of representations made to him, and the production of new evidence, the then Secretary of State referred the cases of the soldiers back to the Court of Appeal.

In a very fully argued written judgment, delivered on 29 July 1992, the Court of Appeal unanimously quashed the convictions of Winston Allen, Noel Bell and James Hegan on the grounds that they were unsafe and unsatisfactory. The court was, however, unanimously satisfied on separate evidence, including his admitted confession statements, as to Neil Latimer's guilt, and that his convictions were safe and satisfactory.

The Secretary of State has continued to receive further representations on Mr. Latimer's behalf, all of which he gave the most careful and thorough examination. He concluded, however, that none of them was sufficient to justify him in the exercise of his statutory power to refer the case to the Court of Appeal again.

PRIME MINISTER

Housing (Young People)

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Prime Minister how many letters he has received recently expressing concern about the housing conditions of young people. [32099]

The Prime Minister: I have received a number of letters on this subject.

Brent Spar

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library copies of the briefings he has received on the options for the final disposal of the Brent Spar platform. [31117]

The Prime Minister: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to release ministerial briefing material.

Information Technology

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Prime Minister what consideration has been given to the implications of merging the Department of Social Security and Inland Revenue data; and if he will make a statement. [31729]

The Prime Minister: There are no plans to merge Department of Social Security and Inland Revenue data, but as part of the Government deregulation initiatives both the DSS and the Inland Revenue are required to review their respective information technology strategies.

Ministerial Posts and Pay

Dr. Wright: To ask the Prime Minister what have been the changes since 1979 of *(a)* the number of Ministers, *(b)* the cost of ministerial salaries and *(c)* the number of parliamentary private secretaries and other unpaid posts. [31514]

The Prime Minister: On the basis of the definition of Ministers within schedule 1 of the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975, and including the Lord Chancellor, *(a)* the number of Ministers on 9 May 1979 was 107 and is currently 108; *(b)* in cash terms, on 9 May 1979 the cost of ministerial salaries was £1,356,188 and the current cost is £3,598,084; *(c)* comparable information for this date is not available.

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Prime Minister, pursuant to his statement on 28 June 1995, *Official Report*, columns *893–909*, on the outcome of the Cannes summit if all the reductions in Britain's contribution to the European development fund will be retained in the overseas development budget and used for bilateral aid to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. [32158]

The Prime Minister: Our contribution to the eighth European development fund will be spent over some five years from the year 2000. Final years for the aid budget in these years will be determined during the annual public expenditure survey in the light of all relevant factors.

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Hinchcliffe: To ask the Lord President of the Council, on how many occasions the provisions of section 141 of the Mental Health Act 1983 have been used. [32100]

Mr. Newton: None.

WALES

Tenby Sewage Works

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) when he decided not to call in the Dwr Cymru application for a sewage treatment plant at Tenby in Pembrokeshire; what were the reasons for his decision; and when he informed those who had requested the calling in of his decision; [31375]

(2) what representations he received requesting the calling in of the Dwr Cymru application for a sewage treatment plant at Tenby in Pembrokeshire. [31377]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Some 150 letters requesting call-in were received. Various other representations relating to the Tenby scheme, including a petition, were also submitted.

It has been the approach of the Secretary of State for Wales not to intervene in applications for discharge consent unless matters of more than local significance are raised or novel or unusual matters which have not been publicly debated in another context are involved: the requests were considered in the context of this policy and the information available, but the view was taken that such matters were not raised in this case. It was therefore decided not to intervene and those who had requested call-in were advised of this in a letter dated 31 May.

Countryside Council for Wales

Mr. Ron Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list those organisations which received *(a)* copies of his action plan for the Countryside Council for Wales released on 4 May, *(b)* copies of the accompanying press release and *(c)* both plan and press release. [31677]

Mr. David Hunt: Both the Council of Welsh Districts and the Assembly of Welsh Counties were sent copies of the action plan and consulted formally on the implications therein for their members. In addition, the Welsh Office sent copies of the plan, on request, to a range of individuals and organisations such as the Farmers Union of Wales, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales and the Country Landowners Association. Copies of the press notice were sent routinely to the media.

Cadw

Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the grants made by Cadw for *(a)* the maintenance, *(b)* the upkeep and *(c)* the restoration of toll houses in Wales in each year since 1990. [31113]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Since 1990, Cadw's only grant in this category was for the restoration of the toll house at Telford's Conwy suspension bridge. A grant of £34,000 was offered in 1993.

Young People Leaving Care

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of States for Wales 1) what percentage of young people who left care in Wales in each of the past five years for which figures are available went into *(a)* furnished private accommodation, *(b)* furnished local authority accommodation, *(c)* unfurnished accommodation and *(d)* temporary accommodation; and what percentage is currently homeless; [31619]

(2) what percentage of young people who left care in Wales in each of the last 10 years *(a)* left school with no formal qualifications, *(b)* gained A-levels or equivalents or *(c)* gained vocational qualifications; [31611]

(3) what percentage of young people leaving care in Wales receive a leaving care grant; and what is the average value of the grant, for each of the past five years for which figures are available; [31615]

(4) what percentage of young people who left care in Wales in each of the past five years for which figures are available are *(a)* claiming benefits, *(b)* on YTS schemes, *(c)* employed, *(d)* unemployed and *(e)* in full-time education [31617]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: This information is not available centrally.

NHS Waiting Lists

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answer of 2 May, *Official Report*, column *139–40*, if he will now give comparable figures for national health service waiting lists at 30 March. [32381]

Mr. David Hunt: The information relating to waiting lists at 31 March 1995 is shown in the following table:

Health Authority area[1]	*Number waiting more than 6 months for out-patient appointment*	*Number waiting more than 18 months for in-patient or day case treatment*
Clwyd	701	74
Dyfed	1,294	109
Gwent	3,021	2
Gwynedd	585	22
Mid Glamorgan	3,536	203
Powys	206	—
South Glamorgan	3,799	156
West Glamorgan	3,382	100
Wales	16,524	666

[1] Including patients of GP Fundholders.
Source:
Welsh Office Core Performance Indicators.

Price Inflation (NHS)

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has of input price inflation in the health service in Wales for each of the last five years. [32379]

Mr. David Hunt: Health authorities receive a cash increase each year and are set targets for the generation of efficiency saving through their contracts with service providers. Taken together, these are sufficient to offset pay and price inflation and enable growth in patient services.

Overall cash increases and efficiency targets for the last five years are as follows:

	Overall per cent. cash increase	*Efficiency target per cent.*
1991–92	9.8	1.1
1992-93	7.0	1.1
1993–94	2.2	2.0
1994–95	2.8	2.7
1995–96	5.6	3.0

TRANSPORT

Rail Privatisation (Consultants)

14. **Mr. Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what has been the total paid to consultants, outside individuals or organisations for services relating to rail privatisation. [30131]

Mr. Watts: Total payments made for consultancy services by the Department, the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising, and the Office of the Rail Regulator between 1991–92 and the end of May 1995 were £51.2 million.

Integrated Public Transport System

15. **Mr. Sutcliffe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures he intends to take to ensure that the United Kingdom develops an integrated public transport system; and if he will make a statement. [30132]

Mr. Norris: The quality and quantity of public transport services in the United Kingdom has improved significantly under this Government, as a direct result of greater private sector involvement, increased competition and deregulation. We have a range of proposals to ensure that this improvement continues.

Motor Bicycle Riders (Safety)

16. **Mr. Booth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representation he has received in respect of the effectiveness of current safety provision for motor bicycle riders. [30133]

Mr. Norris: My Department regularly receives correspondence and representations on various motorcycling issues, including road safety.

ScotRail

18. **Mr. Foulkes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the proposed privatisation of ScotRail. [30135]

Mr. Watts: The franchising director has invited and received pre-qualifying applications from potential bidders for the ScotRail franchise and he will issue invitations to tender in due course.

Thornaby Bypass

19. **Mr. Devlin**: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice he has given Stockton borough council about the future of the Thornaby bypass. [30136]

Mr. Norris: My right hon. Friend's decision to withdraw support reflected the lack of progress with the scheme. It is open to the local authority concerned to submit a fresh bid for funding when the scheme is ready to proceed.

Road Accidents

20. **Mr. Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the number of road deaths and serious injuries in 1994. [30137]

Mr. Norris: Nineteen ninety-four data were published in May. Deaths and serious injuries were respectively 35 per cent. and 38 per cent. below the baseline average for 1981–85, thus meeting the Government's target reduction of one-third by the year 2000 some six years early.

Ferry Safety

21. **Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures he is promoting to improve ferry safety; and if he will make a statement. [30138]

Dr. Mawhinney: In my statement to the House on 5 April, I announced the results of UK research which suggested that the fitting of transverse bulkheads could improve ferry survivability in the event of water invading the vehicle deck. We made this research available to the International Maritime Organisation's panel of experts which was set up following the "Estonia" disaster last September.

As I made clear in my statement, the Government support the thrust of the panel's recommendations and we will press for agreement to their implementation at the International Maritime Organisation's diplomatic conference in November. If satisfactory agreement cannot be reached we shall seek to introduce the necessary standards by other means as quickly as possible.

Motorway Building (Costs)

22. **Mr. William O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what has been the cost per mile of building motorways *(a)* in a rural environment and *(b)* in an urban environment in the last five years. [30139]

Mr. Watts: The average costs of three-lane dual carriageway motorways built in the last five years in a rural environment were £9 million per mile and in an urban environment were £14 million per mile, excluding VAT at 1994 prices.

Rail Privatisation

23. **Sir Fergus Montgomery:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guarantees will be available to rail users on the privatised railway which were not available on the nationalised railway. [30140]

Mr. Watts: Rail users on the privatised railway will be able to enjoy, for the first time, contractually guaranteed levels of service, guaranteed ticket retailing facilities and the regulation of key daily fares and season ticket prices. The combination of these guarantees with the flexibility for franchisees to innovate will ensure a better service for passengers.

Heavy Goods Vehicle Licences

24. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider changing the law so that parish councils can request notification of all heavy good vehicle operators' licence applications made in their locality. [30141]

Mr. Norris: There is no need to change the law.

Parish councils are already able to find out about applications for operator licences by subscribing to a licensing authority's fortnightly publication "Applications and Decisions". This is published by each traffic area office and gives details of all applications for operator licences made in that area.

Road Casualties

25. **Mr. Flynn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what new proposals he has to reduce road casualties. [30142]

Mr. Norris: The road safety report for 1995 describes measures which have been taken or are being planned to reduce road accident casualties. Copies are in the Library.

Pollution

26. **Mr. Khabra:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment is made of the reduction in airborne pollution when constructing a rail link. [30143]

Mr. Norris: Under standing orders relating to private and hybrid Bills and Transport and Works Act procedures, promoters of new rail links must prepare an environmental statement. This must include an assessment of any likely significant direct or indirect effects on air quality arising from the scheme.

Rail Freight

27. **Mr. Roy Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to improve the efficiency of rail freight; and what discussions he has had on the subject with the operators. [30144]

Mr. Watts: The key to improving the efficiency of rail freight is liberalisation and privatisation. We have already opened up the rail network to competition. The process of privatising British Rail's freight businesses has begun. My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with the British Railways Board and others about the performance of the freight businesses and progress towards privatisation.

A1

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he now expects the A1 to be dualled from Morpeth to the Scottish border. [30134]

Mr. Watts: There are three schemes in the road programme which, when complete, would provide continuous dual carriageway from Newcastle to the north of Alnwick. Future progress on schemes between Alnwick and the Scottish border will depend upon the overall availability of resources and the national priorities.

Rail Freight Companies

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what sum he has allocated for grants to rail freight companies to encourage the transfer of freight from road to rail, over the period from 1994 to 1997; and what has been the expenditure to date. [31927]

Mr. Watts: The grant provision for the period 1994–95 to 1996–97 is £43.1 million. Expenditure to date is £2.8 million.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the grants made to rail freight companies, providing services to or from Hampshire, to encourage the transfer of freight from road to rail. [31928]

Mr. Watts: No such grants have been made to rail freight companies. However two freight facilities grants have been awarded which affect Hampshire.

A £3.7 million grant to ARC Southern for rail facilities at Whatley Quarry in Somerset has allowed some 10,000 lorry journeys a year to be removed from roads in the Fareham region of Hampshire since 1988.

In 1993 a grant of £403,000 was awarded to the Esso Petroleum Company towards the cost of refurbishing a bulk bitumen storage facility in Plymouth. This has enabled the traffic to continue to be carried by rail from Fawley near Southampton, saving an estimated 2,000 annual lorry trips between Southampton and Plymouth.

Disability Discrimination Bill

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the economic impact of the Disability Discrimination Bill on the provision of rural transport services; [31681]

(2) if he will list the representations which have been made to him by the transport industry on the Disability Discrimination Bill; [31682]

(3) what assessment he has made of the impact of the Disability Discrimination Bill on the international competitiveness of the United Kingdom transport industry. [31672]

Mr. Norris: It is not our intention to impose any requirements that will jeopardise either manufacturing or operating industries in the UK.

We recognise that different solutions will be needed, for example, for different types of vehicle, or for the same type of vehicle operating under different conditions as may be the case for some rural services. Similarly, we envisage that different time scales will have to be applied. The flexibility to achieve this in regulations has been built in to the new clause which were moved in Committee in the House of Lords on 27 June.

Officials have already begun detailed discussions at industry level through the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the Confederation of Passenger Transport. In addition, they are visiting a number of individual manufacturers to discuss in detail how we can make accessibility requirements work effectively. Those discussions will be continuing as we work up the detail of the regulations.

Full compliance cost assessments will be produced before any regulations are made.

Trans-European Network

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what was his policy at the recent meeting of the European Council of Ministers of Transport in respect of the European Parliament's proposal, amendment 59, to the Commission's proposal COM (94) 0106 to delete the proposed Birmingham northern relief road from the proposed trans-European transport network. [31746]

Mr. Watts: The UK opposed the deletion of the proposed Birmingham northern relief road from the proposed trans-European road network. This road forms part of the Ireland-UK-Benelux priority project.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what was his policy at the recent meeting of the European Council of Ministers of Transport, in respect of the European Parliament's proposal, amendment 166, to the

Commission's proposal COM (94) 0106 to ensure that at least 40 per cent. of EU expenditure on priority projects within the proposed trans-European transport network is spent on railways and at most 25 per cent. is spent on roads. [31747]

Mr. Watts: The UK opposed the amendment imposing a target of 40 per cent. for Community spending on rail projects and limiting the level of spending on roads to 25 per cent. of the available budget. We need flexibility to ensure Community resources are targeted at the projects which best meet the agreed criteria for TENs funding. Since eight of the 14 priority projects are rail projects, and a further two cover both road and rail, the major part of the TENs budget is, however, likely to be devoted to rail projects.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what was his policy at the recent meeting of the European Council of Ministers of Transport, in respect of the European Parliament's proposal, amendment 12, to the Commission's proposal COM (94) 0106 for a strategic environmental impact assessment of the proposed trans-European transport network. [31745]

Mr. Watts: The UK and other member states rejected this specific amendment proposed by the Parliament but agreed to a new indent in article 5 on environmental implications of the network and a new recital. These changes will help to ensure that the environment is taken fully into account in the development and implementation of the network.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what was his policy at the recent meeting of the European Council of Ministers of Transport, in respect of the European Parliament's proposal, amendment 8, to the Commission's proposal COM (94) 0106 for an assessment of the effects of the proposed trans-European transport network on the regions and on jobs. [31744]

Mr. Watts: The UK and other member states agreed with the Commission that this proposed European Parliament amendment was unnecessary. The aim of the network is to contribute to strengthening economic and social cohesion. Each project will have to demonstrate it is potentially economically viable taking account of socio-economic costs and benefits.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the recent discussions of the European Council of Ministers of Transport in respect of the proposed trans-European transport network. [31748]

Mr. Watts: As reported in an answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) on 27 June, *Official Report*, column *545–46*, at its meeting held on 19-20 June the Council of Ministers discussed the Commission proposal for Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network in the light of the European Parliament's opinion received at the end of May. In addition to the amendments suggested by the European Parliament, a number of proposed amendments put forward by member states were discussed. I was pleased that the Council was able to reach a common position on the proposal. This will now return to the European Parliament for further consideration.

Corporate Logo

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list for each of the executive agencies within his Department the cost of the design and production of the corporate logo. [31837]

Mr. Norris: The information is not available in the form requested.

EC Directives

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the draft EC directives currently being discussed by either the European Parliament or Commission relating to transport. [31826]

Mr. Norris: The following Commission legislative proposals are currently being discussed by either the European Parliament or the Council of Ministers:

proposal for a decision on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network;

proposal for a directive on the reporting of movements of vessels carrying dangerous or polluting goods;

proposal for a directive on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods and passengers by sea;

proposal for a regulation on the implementation of the International Safety Management code for roll-on/roll-off ferries;

proposal for a regulation on the free provision of services in transport by inland waterway;

proposal for a directive on the liberalisation of airport ground-handling facilities;

proposal for a directive on the licensing of railway undertakings;

proposal for a directive on the allocation of railway infrastructure capacity and the charging of infrastructure fees;

proposal for a directive on the interoperability of the high-speed rail network;

proposal for a directive on the transport of dangerous goods by rail;

proposal for a directive on dangerous-goods safety advisers;

proposal for a directive on the weight and dimensions of certain motor vehicles;

proposals for directives on the standards of and fitment of seatbelts in buses and coaches;

proposal for a multichapter directive on whole type approval for motorcycles;

proposals for directives on frontal and side-impact standards for cars;

proposal for a directive on emissions from light commercial vehicles and small diesel engines;

proposal for a directive on the harmonisation of rules for the use of self-propelled machinery on public highways;

proposal for a directive on recording equipment in road transport;

proposal for a directive on the hiring of road-haulage vehicles without drivers; and

proposal for a directive on passenger-carrying cableways.

Long-distance Coaches

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints he has received about inadequate toilet facilities on long-distance coaches; and if he will make a statement. [31607]

Mr. Norris: There is no record of complaints on this matter. The provision of toilet facilities on coaches is a matter for the operators.

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations there are regarding toilet facilities and the replenishing of same on long-distance coaches travelling between the United Kingdom and other European countries; and if he will make a statement. [31598]

Mr. Norris: There are no regulations regarding this matter and I am not aware of plans to introduce any such regulations in the European Union.

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision for long-distance coaches to have their toilet facilities replenished; and if he will make a statement. [31599]

Mr. Norris: I have made no such assessment.

Motorway Signs

Mr. Gareth Wardell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the locations of signs on motorways in England indicating the proximity of a hospital. [31348]

Mr. Watts: There is none.

Departmental Grants

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31303]

Mr. Norris: The figures requested are as follows:

Year	*Number of organisations receiving grants*	*Number of organisations with whom contracts have been entered into*
1993–94	17	3
	[1]£487,812	£266,424
1994–95	18	5
	[1]£540,651	£138,110

[1] Total value

Hospitality

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list for each of the last five years the amount spent by his Department and executive agencies on official hospitality. [31831]

Mr. Norris: The centre of the Department of Transport, now known as the central transport group, and its agencies have respectively spent the following amounts on official entertainment since 1990–91:

Department of Transport

1990–91: £204,040

1991–92: £170,015

1992–93: £233,762

1993–94: £234,986

1994–95: £127,247

1995–96: £18,661 (Estimate to date)

Agencies

1990–91: £24,114

1991–92: £30,216

1992–93: £45,454

1993–94: £59,850

1994–95: £91,042

1995–96: £77,462 (Estimate to date)

National Parks

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the benefits and disbenefits of restricting vehicle access to the national parks. [31871]

Mr. Norris: None. Traffic management in the national parks is principally a matter for the relevant local traffic authorities.

Departmental Vehicles

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the cars *(a)* owned and *(b)* operated by his Department including the model and engine size and estimated mileage. [31828]

Mr. Norris: The information requested is as follows:

Central Transport Group
Average 3,000 miles per vehicle per year

Make	*Model*	*Engine size*
Renault	Clio	1,400
Renault	19	1,400
Rover	Metro	1,100
Rover	216	1,500
Subaru	Impreza	1,800
Toyota	Carina	2,000
Vauxhall	Cavalier	1,600
Ford	Escort	1,300
Ford	Transit	2,000
Ford	Fiesta	1,100
Nissan	Micra	1,000
Nissan	Sunny	1,400
Nissan	Prairie	2,000
Nissan	Versa Vanette	1,500
Peugeot	405	1,600
Plymouth/Chrysler	Voyager	3,300
Dodge/Chrysler	Voyager	3,300

Driving Standards Agency
Average 10,000 miles per vehicle per year

Make	*Model*	*Engine size*
Vauxhall	Astra	1,400
Vauxhall	Astra	1,700

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
Average 15,000 miles per vehicle per year

Make	*Model*	*Engine size*
Ford	Transit	2,500
Ford	Sierra	1,800
Volkswagen	Passat	1,900
Volkswagen	Golf	1,900
Ford	Mondeo	1,800

Highways Agency
Average 21,500 miles per vehicle per year

Make	*Model*	*Engine size*
Ford	Sierra	1,800 (2)
Ford	Mondeo	1,600 (2)
Vauxhall	Astra	1,400

The Coastguard Agency
Average 7,000 miles per vehicle per year

Make	*Model*	*Engine size*
Land Rover	88	2,300 (5)
Land Rover	90	1,500 (87)
Nissan	Patrol	2,800 (15)
Nissan	Terrano	2,400 (11)
Nissan	4 x 4	2,400 (10)
Nissan	Sunny	1,300 (5)
Lada	Neva	1,600 (4)
Vauxhall	Astra	1,700 (31)
Vauxhall	Merit	1,700 (7)
Vauxhall	Brava	2.300 (10)
Vauxhall	Brava	2,500 (45)
Fiat	Panda	1,100
Fiat	Citivan	1,100 (2)
Peugeot	309	1,900 (13)
Fiat	Tipo	1,900
Renault	Clio	1,900 (56)
Renault	19	1,900 (5)
Citroen	Xantia	1,900

Transport Research Laboratory
Average 10,000 miles per vehicle per year

Make	*Model*	*Engine size*
Vauxhall	Cavalier	1,600 (3)
Ford	Mondeo	1,800
Vauxhall	Carlton	1,800
Leyland	Montego	1,600
Ford	Sierra	1,800 (11)
Vauxhall	Carlton	2,000 (3)
Ford	Escort	1,600 (13)
Ford	Escort	1,400
Vauxhall	Astra	1,600
Ford	P100	1,800
Leyland	Metro	1,000 (2)
Toyota	Corolla	1,600
Rover	216	1,600
Renault	Espace	1,800
Opel	Omega	2,000
Rover	218	1,800
Jaguar	XJ6	4,200
BMW	320	2,000
Oldsmobile	Trans AM	6,300
Pontiac	Trans AM	6,500
Ford	Cortina	2,000
Ford	Fiesta	1,000

Vehicle Certification Agency
Average 4,000 miles per vehicle per year

Make	*Model*	*Engine size*
Nissan	Primera	2,000

Vehicle Inspectorate
Average 17,000 miles per vehicle per year

Make	*Model*	*Engine size*
Skoda	120LS	1,100
Austin	Montego	1,600
Lada	Samara	1,300
Ford	Escort	1,100
Austin	Maestro	1,300 (2)
Ford	Escort	1,600
Austin	Metro	1,000
Rover	214	1,400 (3)
Austin	Maestro	2,000 (2)
Rover	Montego	2,000 (11)
Ford	Sierra	1,800 (32)
Vauxhall	Cavalier	1,800 (6)
Land Rover	Discovery	2,500
Bedford	Special unit	2,300 (4)
Freight Rover	Sherpa	2,000 (5)

The number in brackets denotes the number of vehicles if more than one. The Marine Safety Agency does not own or operate any cars.

Vehicle Excise Duty

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list for each vehicle registration office the amount of vehicle excise duty collected and the number of cases discarded in the latest available year. [31832]

Mr. Norris: The amount of vehicle excise duty collected by each vehicle registration office is not available but the total for 1994–95 amounted to some £600 million.

In the year 1994–95 vehicle registration offices and the London enforcement office received 1.67 million excise offence reports from the police. Of these some 458,000 resulted in the payment of out-of-court settlements or successful prosecutions. Of the rest, only 77,548 were discarded unactioned, the rest receiving some investigation before being dropped. This represents some 4.6 per cent. of receipts. The numbers, office by office, are as follows:

Office	*Cases discarded*
Manchester	9,090
Sheffield	37
Liverpool	0
Bangor	0
Chester	4,835
Huddersfield	0
Leeds	0
Preston	728
Hull	1,254
Aberdeen	0
Inverness	0
Dundee	0
Middlesbrough	482
Newcastle	10,294

Office	Cases discarded
Carlisle	0
Edinburgh	0
Glasgow	3,939
Luton	1,666
Ipswich	0
Chelmsford	13,383
Norwich	0
Haverfordwest	32
Swansea	0
Taunton	714
Truro	0
Gloucester	4,645
Exeter	198
Bristol	96
Worcester	1,078
Swindon	1,216
Reading	83
Portsmouth	0
Oxford	0
Brighton	1,142
Maidstone	14
Guildford	456
Bournemouth	0
Stoke	0
Leicester	0
Lincoln	293
Nottingham	6,077
Peterborough	144
Northampton	647
Birmingham	6,017
Coventry	755
Shrewsbury	0
London Enforcement	8,233
Total	77,548

Chiltern Line Services

Mr Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the management of the Chiltern line in respect of train services to Northolt park; and if he will make a statement. [30553]

Mr. Watts: None. I understand that Chiltern Railways has decided to reinstate the evening peak train service to Northolt park.

London Docklands

Sir Michael Neubert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he next expects to make an official visit to London docklands to discuss further developments in respect of the road and rail infrastructure. [31141]

Dr. Mawhinney: I have no plans to do so at present. My hon. Friend the Minister for Transport in London will chair the next meeting of the docklands transport steering group in October.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what further measures he proposes to prevent the use of overloaded heavy goods vehicles. [30121]

Mr. Norris: The Vehicle Inspectorate expects to weigh 115,000 heavy goods vehicles in 1995–96 using the Department's national network of strategically located enforcement weighbridge sites.

Terminal 5

Dr. Goodson-Wickes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessments he has made of the transport and noise implications of a new terminal 5 at Heathrow. [30118]

Dr. Mawhinney: As I will be jointly determining the outcome of the inquiry into BAA's proposal I have not made any assessment of its aviation implications. However, I am responsible for promoting improvements to the M25 and M4 access roads. Their noise effects have been assessed and the results are contained in the environmental statement for the schemes.

Office of Passenger Rail Franchising

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans exist to undertake a census of capacity for commuter routes running to and from Newcastle and Cardiff; when such a census was conducted in previous years; if he will publish the results of the last such survey in tabular form; and if he will make a statement as to how OPRAF intends to proceed in consideration of passengers in excess of capacity targets for such routes. [31888]

Mr. Watts: British Rail's monitoring systems collect data relating to capacity for all its services as a matter of normal practice. OPRAF intends to apply load factor or seating capacity requirements on certain commuter routes. These will be specified in the passenger service requirements included in franchise agreements. No decisions have yet been made as to the specifications which will apply in respect of commuter services to and from Newcastle and Cardiff.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps OPRAF will take to prevent rail franchise holders who are operating services which were previously part of Network SouthEast from transferring a substantial number of passengers to the services of another operator in order to exceed passenger capacity targets. [31894]

Mr. Watts: The draft franchise agreement contains a provision prohibiting franchisees from avoiding their obligations with regard to the provision of adequate capacity on commuter services by taking action which might transfer a material number of passengers to another operator.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what obligations or incentives OPRAF intends to impose or provide to ensure that rail franchise holders will upgrade their rolling stock; if specific target dates will be set for *(a)* the provision of trains with lavatories and *(b)* the carriage of cycles. [31896]

Mr. Watts: The specification of replacement stock, when this becomes necessary, will be a matter for the commercial judgment of the franchisee.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances OPRAF may release

rail franchise holders from minimum standards applying to stations which it operates; to what extent persistent vandalism would constitute a relevant factor; and how the costs and benefits of repairing the effects of such vandalism or of increased security to prevent its recurrence will be measured by OPRAF when considering any relaxation of standards. [31878]

Mr. Watts: Rail franchise holders will be required to meet minimum station standards, except where the franchising director considers the cost of compliance would significantly outweigh the benefit to passengers, or where he is persuaded that the standard is impractical.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirement OPRAF will impose on rail franchise holders operating stations or providing waiting rooms in relation to the proportion of platforms to be provided with this facility and the hours they should be open. [31880]

Mr. Watts: In general, operators will be required to provide covered waiting accommodation at each station. Adequate alternative shelter must be provided where waiting accommodation is not available or is temporarily out of use.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if OPRAF will compensate *(a)* franchisees and *(b)* passengers in the event of any adjustment in the rate of VAT on passenger rail transport before 31 March 2003; [31882]

(2) what level of benefits to railcard holders will be guaranteed in franchise agreements; [31886]

(3) if OPRAF will be permitted to suspend ticket inter-availability requirements only when his judgment is that this will lead to benefits to passengers; how such benefits will be identified; and whether forecast benefits will be published for consultation prior to a final decision. [31885]

Mr. Watts: I refer the hon. Member to the passenger rail industry overview, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if the weighting employed by OPRAF in designing the tariff baskets of controlled fares for capping purposes will be published; and what audit arrangements will be put in place to ensure that changes to specific fares made by any franchise holder are compatible with fares capping requirements set by OPRAF for the total basket of controlled fares. [31884]

Mr. Watts: The franchising director does not propose to publish the weighting employed by OPRAF in designing tariff baskets of controlled fares for capping purposes. Franchise operators must notify the franchising director of any proposals to increase regulated fares. Fares will be monitored periodically by OPRAF to ensure compliance with fares regulation.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if rail franchise holders will be obliged to inform passengers, at each station which they operate, of timetables for all passenger trains stopping at those stations; whether they will be obliged to do so in the form of a single booklet or leaflet at staffed stations, and a single information display at all stations; and if he will define more precisely the derogation as far as practicable, employed by OPRAF, in specifying this obligation. [31887]

Mr. Watts: Franchise holders will be obliged to display at all stations the times of all trains and details of principal connections and, where stations are manned, this information will be available in written form.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances OPRAF will specify connections as part of the passenger service requirements; what definition OPRAF will employ of the rail franchise holder's own commercial interest when considering whether such a specification should be made; and what written definition or guidance on such circumstances exists in documents produced by OPRAF or in instructions from the Government to OPRAF. [31895]

Mr. Watts: Generally, OPRAF will specify a connection where it provides a socially necessary service which would not otherwise be provided for operational reasons or under the operator's general duty within the franchise agreement to provide a reasonable pattern of connections.

The Government have not given the franchising director any instructions or guidance in relation to the specification of connections. OPRAF has set out its policy approach in information to consultees in relation to passenger service requirements.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances OPRAF will be permitted to propose changes to passenger services requirements during the lifetime of a franchise; if such proposed changes *(a)* must be only in the direction of offering an enhanced level of service to passengers or *(b)* will be subject to consultation with rail users consultative committees and others and *(c)* can be made only with the agreement of both OPRAF and the franchise holder and how the consequential adjustments to franchise payments will be determined. [31879]

Mr. Watts: The franchising director has the right to adjust passenger service requirements during the life of a franchise, but the instructions and guidance given to him by the Secretary of State stipulate that any changes from the existing pattern of services should be made gradually. The franchising director will consult the relevant rail users consultative committees and local authorities before making significant changes to PSRs and will adjust franchise payments so that the franchise operator does not gain or lose as a result.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons he has decided that the historical performance of a train operating company should be of relevance when specifying performance targets for those companies after privatisation. [31879]

Mr. Watts: This is a matter for OPRAF. Performance benchmarks will be set in relevant franchise agreements based on actual performance in either 1993–94 or

1994–95, whichever is the more typical of an average year, or the passengers charters targets if these are higher.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if OPRAF will place any requirement on training operating companies in franchise agreements or elsewhere that trains should carry guards or other on-board staff. [31881]

Mr. Watts: OPRAF has no plans to impose any requirements additional to those needed for reasons of safety.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if rail franchise holders operating service groups with London terminuses which were previously part of Network SouthEast will be permitted to increase the number of excess passengers, as measured by the means used in compiling the annual autumn census of capacity, provided that the resulting figures do not exceed the permitted percentage in excess of capacity specified by OPRAF. [31883]

Mr. Watts: Yes.

Slots (Heathrow Airport)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what benefits have been gained by transferring the allocation of slots at Heathrow from London to Brussels; and what has been the consequential cost to public funds. [31853]

Mr. Norris: The allocation of slots at Heathrow airport is carried out from Heathrow by Airport Coordination Ltd., an independent company owned by the UK airlines. There has been no transfer of the function to Brussels. ACL and other airport co-ordinators in the European Community operate within the terms of EC regulation 95/93 on common rules for the allocation of slots at Community airports.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Mr. Rowe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the result of the competition to build the channel tunnel rail link; and if he will make a statement. [31151]

Dr. Mawhinney: Four tenders were submitted on 14 March this year. The Government and their advisers have now completed their evaluation of the bids. In accordance with their recommendation, I have selected two consortia, Eurorail CTRL Ltd. and London and Continental Railways, who will be invited to go forward for further detailed negotiations.

The Government welcome and applaud the immense effort which all four bidders have put into their tenders. This is another indication of the very real commitment of the private sector to the railway industry of the future. It is already clear that bringing in the private sector is going to add value to both the CTRL project and the European passenger services business. This is another good example of the benefits flowing from the Government's private finance initiative.

The evaluation of the bids has been conducted strictly in accordance with the criteria which were set out in the competition overview document published last summer. The ranking of bids in the first stage has been based mainly on an evaluation of the level and timing of the Government contribution and the approach taken by the bidders to risk, together with a qualitative assessment of their financial proposals. The evaluation also took account of other transport benefits.

There are two very strong candidates left in the race. I am confident that at the end of the coming negotiation phase we shall be in a position to strike a deal which is good for the project and its backers, good for passengers and good for the taxpayer. We are on schedule and I hope to announce the winner of the competition before the end of the year.

Ro-ro Ferries

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will support the Japanese proposal for regional agreements within the International Maritime Organisation on ro-ro ferries; and if he will *(a)* support a decision on the matter at the November meetings of the IMO and *(b)* support a modification date for existing ferries of no more than three years from the November meetings. [31612]

Mr. Norris: The United Kingdom will pursue the application on a worldwide basis of the high standards recommended by the panel of experts for ro-ro ferries. If it is evident that this will not attract sufficient support at the IMO, the earliest application of that standard to ferries operating to and from United Kingdom ports will be vigorously pursued within a regional concept similar to that put forward by Japan.

Charter Week

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what are the main events he is proposing for Charter Week; what is the total cost to public funds; and how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* other public officials will be playing part. [31980]

Mr. Norris *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* The main transport event linked to Charter Week is the mobility roadshow, a major exhibition of vehicles and mobility equipment for elderly and disabled people which takes place from July 14–16 at the Transport Research Laboratory in Crowthorne, Berkshire.

This is a biennial event organised by the Department of Transport. There will be no additional costs or staff resources attributable to Charter Week.

Mobile Phones

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evidence he has of the contribution that hand-held mobile phones used by motorists have made to road accidents. [31490]

Mr. Norris *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* This information could not be obtained other than at disproportionate cost.

Flight Delays (Heathrow)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what was the average delay time of scheduled flights to European destinations from Heathrow in March and June. [31854]

Mr. Norris: The average delay to scheduled passenger flights between Heathrow and European airports in March 1995 was four minutes.

Statistics for June 1995 will not be available for approximately eight weeks.

Marine Safety Exercises

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 23 May, *Official Report*, column *569*, how long was the interval between *(a)* the general alarm signal and the abandon ship signal, *(b)* the abandon ship signal and the reception of all passengers aboard lifeboats or liferafts and *(c)* the reception of all passengers aboard lifeboats or liferafts and the reception ashore, in the ferry exercises Common Aim 3, Claymore, Goodwin, Liverpool Bay, Eddystone, Webex, Seafire, Beauforts Dyke and Sovereign. [31491]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for the Coastguard Agency. I have asked its chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from C. J. Harris to Mr. Paul Flynn, dated 3 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Transport has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question as the question deals with an operational matter, for which I have responsibility as Chief Executive.

The information requested is not recorded by the Department.

Aircraft Instruments

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are being taken to reduce the danger of interference from passengers' electronic devices with aircraft flight instruments. [31643]

Mr. Norris: The Civil Aviation Authority has issued a notice to UK air operators directing them to ensure that the use of personal electronic equipment is prohibited during certain critical phases of flight, including take-off and landing. The notice also bans completely the use of portable telephones in aircraft. These instructions are reflected in the passenger safety briefing given before each flight and are soon to be in incorporated in passenger briefing cards.

The CAA has commissioned research into the problem of electronic interference and, based on the results of this, will determine whether more specific guidance should be issued to operators.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Advertising Costs

Mr. Allen: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how he is responding to Britain's advertisers' informal complaints to his Department on the effect of the cost of air time on the competitiveness of British industry. [31916]

Mr. Eggar: The cost of air time is a matter for the commercial judgment of the organisations concerned. The subject was one of several issues raised at a recent meeting officials in my Department had with representatives from the advertising sector.

Military Exports (Singapore)

Mr. Cousins: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if exports of *(a)* cannon mounts, *(b)* cannon components and *(c)* cannon kits were licensed between 1984 and 1990 for export to Singapore without (i) being licensed under the military list of (ii) an end user statement or certificate being insisted upon. [29164]

Mr. Ian Taylor: All the goods listed in the hon. Member's question are military list items and any export licence application in respect of these items would have been considered on that basis. As my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade made clear in his statement to the House on 13 June 1995, *Official Report*, columns *595–97*, items on the military list were on occasion exported without full supporting documentation being insisted on. However, in all cases the licence application form includes a formal statement of the end user.

An answer to this question would require the detailed examination of several hundred licence applications, which would entail seriously disproportionate cost. however, I shall bear the hon. Member's question in mind in the course of any further research into export licences granted for Singapore.

Insurance Risk Assessment

Mr. Denham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment he has made of the use of post codes by insurance companies to assess risk of exposure to *(a)* crime and *(b)* subsidence; and if he will make a statement. [31930]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Postal codes are widely used by insurance companies as a tool in assessing premiums. It is the commercial judgment of insurance companies that the premiums charged for any particular area can be expected to reflect the claims experience for that area.

Mr. Denham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proposals he has made to regulate the use of post codes by insurance companies to assess insurance risk. [31931]

Mr. Evans: None. The Secretary of State's powers under the Insurance Companies Act 1982 are primarily concerned with the solvency of insurance companies and, except where such matters are concerned, he does not intervene in their day to day business.

Military Exports (Nigeria)

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what were the number and type of export licences issued for military equipment for use by *(a)* the Nigerian police force and *(b)* the Nigerian UN peace keeping corps for 1994 and for 1995 to date. [31779]

Mr. Ian Taylor: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to reveal details of export licences or applications for licences unless the requirements of confidentiality are outweighed by the public interest.

Insolvency Practitioners

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many insolvency examiners have been dismissed since 1990 for failing to achieve the relevant accountancy qualifications. [32609]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Four examiners have been dismissed as a result of failing to pass the required accountancy examinations during their two-year probationary period.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will set out the method by which, after a meeting of creditors has failed to appoint a trustee in bankruptcy or a liquidator of a company in liquidation the Secretary of State determines the identity of the insolvency practitioner who is to be appointed as a trustee or a liquidator under *(a)* section 295 or *(b)* 137 of the Insolvency Act 1986, with particular reference to whether the insolvency practitioner who is appointed is required to be located within the same region as the bankrupt or the company in question. [32320]

Mr. Evans: Each official receiver maintains a rota of insolvency practitioners within the locality of his office who are willing to accept appointments by the Secretary of State. The criteria for entry on to the rota are that the insolvency practitioner should have a permanently staffed office with insolvency personnel in regular attendance within the locality of, or conveniently accessible to, the local court. Generally speaking, where no trustee or liquidator is nominated at a meeting of creditors and if the official receiver considers it desirable that one be appointed, he will seek that appointment by reference to his local rota.

During 1994 a special unit was set up in Manchester, on a temporary basis, to complete the administration of cases remaining open as a result of the high level of insolvencies of earlier years. In such cases where, some time after the making of the order, there were sufficient assets to enable a distribution to creditors to be made, local practitioners were appointed to carry out that work.

Bankruptcies and Liquidations

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what future trends he expects in the number of bankruptcy orders and winding up orders over the next five years. [32589]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The Insolvency Service does not publish forecasts of insolvencies although for planning and resource allocation purposes as part of the MINIS process it bases its business plan on an expected number of cases in the following financial year. For 1995–96 the service's business plan is based on a total of 25,000 cases comprising 20,000 bankruptcies and 5,000 compulsory liquidations.

Insolvency Service

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what are the total annual salary costs of the staff of the Insolvency Service of grades B and above, both in absolute terms, and as a percentage of the total wage bill of the Insolvency Service. [32325]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Some £3.1 million was incurred in 1994–95 on the salary costs of Insolvency Service staff of grades B and above. This amount represents approximately 8 per cent. of the total pay costs of the Insolvency Service for 1994–95.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many man days were lost in the Insolvency Service due to sick absence for each year since 1986. [32308]

Mr. Evans: Details of the number of man-days lost to the Insolvency Service due to sick absence is available only for the years since 1991. The details are as follows:

Year	*Days*
1991	17,270
1992	18,168
1993	23,082
1994	21,324

Prior to March 1990, when the Insolvency Service became an executive agency, details of sick absences were combined with those of the Department.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the current policy of the Insolvency Service regarding the circumstances under which staff are required to transfer involuntarily between official receivers' offices. [32311]

Mr. Evans: The Insolvency Service endeavours to fill vacancies in its offices by transferring staff on a voluntary basis. If, exceptionally, mobile staff are transferred compulsorily the costs directly associated with such a transfer are paid within agreed limits.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what procedures and provisions are in place to enable staff to relocate voluntarily or involuntarily between official receivers' offices; and what changes are planned to these procedures in the event of the contracting out of some of the functions of the official receiver. [32310]

Mr. Evans: The Insolvency Service endeavours to fill vacancies in official receivers' offices on a voluntary basis. Staff may apply for transfer to another office at any time and such requests will be considered on their merits. They will normally be agreed subject to the existence of a suitable vacancy. Where a transfer is a compulsory one or where a voluntary transfer involving relocation is in the service's interest the costs directly associated with the relocation are reimbursed within agreed limits.

No changes are planned to these procedures.

Weapons Exports

Mr. Redmond: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the overseas countries in which British weaponry may be sold. [31497]

Mr. Ian Taylor: Anywhere where there is no embargo, in which respect I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Leyton (Mr. Cohen) by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on 16 January 1995, *Official Report*, column *283*.

Decisions on export licence applications are, however, taken in light of established criteria to which we are committed, including those agreed by the European Union, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the permanent five members of the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list those countries in which an embargo on selling British weaponry has been lifted during the last 12 months. [31496]

Mr. Taylor: Haiti and Syria, with a UN call for voluntary restraint—not an arms embargo—on the supply of military equipment to Yemen also lapsing during the year.

Chemical Weapons Convention

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many responses his Department received to the consultation document "Industry and the Chemical Weapons Convention" by the close of the consultation period on 31 March; and what progress has been made in assessing the responses. [31122]

Mr. Heseltine: Over 2,500 copies of the discussion document were issued widely to industry, largely through trade organisations. We received 33 responses. Of these, 15 were from trade organisations, who were responding on behalf of their membership. The responses, overall, supported the approach my Department proposes to adopt in implementing the convention. The results of the consultation were included in a speech given to the House on 24 April, *Official Report*, columns 638–42, by my hon. Friend, the Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Technology.

Astra plc

Mr. Wilson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what representations have been made by ministers or officials of his Department to the receiver of Astra plc concerning access to and availability of documentary material returned to the company by the Ministry of Defence Police. [31433]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* It is for the administrative receivers of Astra Holdings plc to decide what access they allow to the company's papers. Before my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade appeared before the Trade and Industry Select Committee on 28 June, officials informally raised with the receivers the question of disclosure to the Select Committee and were informed that legal advice had been sought.

Mr. Wilson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list by convenient category the documents removed from Astra plc and its subsidiaries which are restrained by his Department. [31432]

Mr. Evans *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* The papers of Astra Holdings plc are now held by the administrative receiver. The inspectors appointed to investigate the affairs of the company made and retained copies of documents relevant to their investigation. These principally comprise certain statutory material, financial and accounting records and information, correspondence, internal and external memoranda and reports.

Export Licence Applications

Mr. Wilson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to his statement of 13 June, *Official Report*, column 597, what percentage of the rise in export licence applications related to *(a)* high-tech exports and *(b)* arms exports. [31434]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* Export licence applications received in the years 1984 and 1987 were broken down as follows:

	1984	*1987*	*Per cent. increase*
Military	14,398	17,590	22
Industrial and nuclear	34,428	70,031	[1]103
Other	9,215	10,221	[2]11
Total	58,041	97,842	68

[1] No breakdown by 'high' and 'low' technology is available.
[2] Primarily metallic scrap and heritage items.

United Arab Emirates

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the value of United Kingdom visible and invisible trade with the United Arab Emirates. [31530]

Mr. Needham *[holding answer 29 June 1995]:* Information on visible trade is published in Central Statistical Office business monitor MM20, available in the Library of the House. Information on invisible trade with the United Arab Emirates is not available.

BMARC Ltd.

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will place in the Library all documents held by his Department in relation to the trading activities of BMARC Ltd. and if he will make a statement. [30232]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 26 June 1995]:* No. The hon. Member has asked for a very large number of documents, which could be put together only at disproportionate cost.

There are particular issues concerning the release of documents obtained by inspectors under compulsory powers. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wallsend (Mr. Byers) by my hon. Friend the Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs on 27 June 1995, *Official Report*, columns *570–71*.

Nevertheless, I recognise the great public interest in the trading activities of BMARC and I welcome the decision of the Trade and Industry Select Committee to inquire into the affairs of BMARC. My Department will be co-operating fully with the Committee's inquiry.

Scott Inquiry

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, how many civil servants in his Department are working on matters related to the Scott inquiry, if a dedicated unit has been established; and what is the estimated cost to date of civil servants dealing with matters relating to the Scott inquiry. [28861]

Mr. Heseltine *[holding answer 15 June 1995]:* A Scott inquiry unit was established in DTI in December 1992. Currently the unit consists of two posts. The approximate cost of the unit to date, excluding the cost of the provision of papers, is £247,000.

Arms Export Licences

Mr. Hain: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many staff in his Department were responsible for monitoring and approving arms export licences for each year since 1979. [29334]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 19 June 1995]:* The table below shows the number of staff within the Department responsible for the processing of arms export licence applications from 1989 to 1995, including, where necessary, monitoring compliance with licence conditions. The figures prior to 1989 could be made available only at disproportionate cost. Technical advice on military licensing matters is available from the DTI's sensitive technologies unit. Applications are also routinely assessed by advisers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence. Enforcement of export controls—including controls on military goods–is carried out by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise.

Year	*Number of Staff*
1989	15
1990	29
1991	27
1992	29
1993	32
1994	35
1995	39

SCOTLAND

Privatisation

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list those parts of his Department or departmental agencies which were privatised without an in-house bid; if he will indicate the expertise which was absent in his Department or departmental agencies which prevented an in-house bid taking place; which future parts of his Department or departmental agencies he intends to privatise; and which of them do not have the necessary in-house expertise to mount an in-house bid. [29425]

Mr. Lang: It is my aim to ensure that the services undertaken by my Department and its agencies are provided and managed so as to give better service to the public in Scotland and optimum value for money to the taxpayer. That is the policy which underpins the decisions I have taken to contract out strategically certain services provided by my Department and its agencies. The broad reasons for contracting out without an in-house bid are set out in *Taking Forward Continuity and Change*—Cm 2748. These include, for example, when my Department judges that the private sector is better equipped to deliver a specific service, has a better understanding of market needs or a greater capacity to invest in new technology. A strategic decision to contract out might also be taken where an activity may be relatively small in size and peripheral to a department's core functions.

No parts of my Department or departmental agencies were privatised without an in-house bid. The following activities within my Department and its agencies have been strategically contracted out without an in-house bid since April 1992.

Activities Strategically Contracted Out

Marine Laboratory Estate Management

Maintenance of New National Health Service Radio Systems

Superannuation Services

Audit of NHS Boards

Animal House, Scottish Agricultural Science Agency

Facilities Management at Victoria Quay[1]

Audit of 1st Wave NHS Trusts

Audit of 2nd Wave NHS Trusts

Audit of 3rd Wave NHS Trusts

Data Preparation Services

Historic Scotland Patrolmen at Edinburgh Castle

Prison-based education, Scottish Prison Service

Scottish Office Pensions Agency Pensions Administration System

Security at Scottish Agricultural Science Agency

Publications distribution and sales

Additional typing services

Mainframe Applications Support

My Department and its agencies have not yet identified any activities for future privatisation or contracting out without an in-house bid.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many ministerial visits by Ministers of his Department were made to Scottish parliamentary constituencies since 1 May 1994.

Mr. Lang: Scottish Office Ministers have made 362 visits to Scottish parliamentary constituencies since 1 May 1994.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many ministerial visits have been made by himself and his Ministers to the parliamentary constituencies of *(a)* Tayside, North, *(b)* Kincardine and Deeside, *(c)* Edinburgh, Pentlands, *(d)* Dumfries, *(e)* Aberdeen, South, *(f)* Stirling, *(g)* Ayr, *(h)* Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, *(i)* Perth and Kinross and *(j)* Eastwood since 1 May 1994. [29588]

Mr. Lang: The information requested is set out in the table:

Constituency	*Number of visits made*
(a) Tayside North	3
(b) Kincardine and Deeside	2
(c) Edinburgh, Pentlands	3
(d) Dumfries	9
(e) Aberdeen, South	6
(f) Stirling	13
(g) Ayr	7
(h) Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	15
(i) Perth and Kinross	8
(j Eastwood	1

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which parliamentary constituency in Scotland received the most ministerial visits by Ministers of his Department since 1 May 1994. [29589]

Mr. Lang: Since 1 May last year, Edinburgh, Central has received the largest number of ministerial visits by Scottish Office Ministers.

Heavy Vehicles (Bans)

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the existing powers of local authorities to ban heavy vehicles from minor roads in urban areas; and what pressure he has had for changes to the existing position. [29850]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Powers are available to local traffic authorities under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to make or revoke traffic regulation orders preventing the use of roads by vehicular traffic of a kind or in a manner which is unsuitable having regard to the character of the road. Mandatory restrictions can cover small lengths of road or large area networks and can be based on gross vehicle weight, axle weight, length, height or width or any other readily understood characteristic of the vehicles. A local traffic authority may also include provisions for specifying through routes for heavy goods vehicles. My right hon. Friend has received no representations about changing the existing powers.

Local Government Finance

Sir David Steel: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will increase Ettrick and Lauderdale district council's non-housing revenue account consent for 1995–96. [30036]

Mr. Lang: All resources currently available for capital investment in housing in 1995–96 have been fully allocated. I will take account of the needs of Ettrick and Lauderdale district council should additional resources become available later in the year.

Locate in Scotland

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the total amount of inward investment attracted to the city of Glasgow in 1994–95 by Locate in Scotland; how many jobs this created or safeguarded; and if he will make a statement. [30960]

Mr. Kynoch: During 1994–95, Locate in Scotland and the Scottish Office Industry Department helped attract to Glasgow eight inward investment projects involving planned investment of nearly £30 million and the expected creation or safeguarding of over 1,300 jobs.

Sheep Scabs

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the recorded level of sheep scab in each of the last five years. [31245]

Sir Hector Monro: The numbers of confirmed cases of sheep scab in Scotland during the period 1990 to June 1992 were as follows:

	Number
1990	4
1991	5
1992 (to 30 June)	17

Further Education

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what are the Government's financial plans for the further education sector over the next few years. [31318]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Information on the plans for the provision for further education colleges and agencies is given in the departmental report of March 1995, "Serving Scotland's Needs"—Cm 2814—as follows:

1995–96: £251 million

1996–97: £249 million

1997–98: £243 million

The figures for 1996–97 and 1997–98 are provisional and subject to review in the annual public expenditure surveys.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what capping measures have been imposed on certain types of courses in further education colleges; and for what reason. [31319]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Following a period of rapid expansion of higher education level courses in further education colleges, my right hon. Friend decided to consolidate the number of new full-time entrants to higher education courses in 1995–96 at the level achieved in each college during 1994–95. There are a number of specific exceptions and colleges are free to develop new programmes and to decide the number of students to recruit for particular programmes within the consolidated ceiling. No restrictions are applied to part-time higher education students or to students taking non-advanced courses.

The consolidation is required on grounds of affordability and is broadly consistent with the approach over recent years within the higher education institutions.

University of Paisley

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the academic contribution made by the university of Paisley to the social, industrial and economic life of Scotland since it

earned its new status; what plans he has to ensure the security of the university in its preparation for future development; and if he will introduce further measures to develop higher education in the Paisley area. [31390]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The university of Paisley has made a great deal of progress since the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 introduced new arrangements for the constitution and funding of higher education institutions in Scotland.

The academic achievements and diversity and scale of provision of the university were recognised in the granting of permission to use university title in June 1992, and of powers to award its own degrees in September 1992. I also approved in July 1993 the merger with Craigie college of education, and welcomed then the commitment to develop and strengthen the vocational mission of the new university.

Evidence of the teaching quality of the university is given in the published reports of the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council's assessment of teaching quality, and the report of the Higher Education Quality Council in April this year on its audit of the university arrangements for academic quality assurance.

Allocation of funds for the teaching and research of higher education institutions is now the responsibility of the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council. Each institution has been required to submit annual strategic plans and financial forecasts, as well as strategies for estates and research, to SHEFC. It is for SHEFC to determine appropriate allocations to individual institutions in the light of the information it receives and its assessment of the needs of the sector as a whole.

Dounreay

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the recommendations of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee concerning the treatment of waste at Dounreay in accordance with modern standards, and on the history of how waste particles came to be found over a period of years on the Dounreay foreshore; and if he will make it his policy that there will be regular, independent, and public reviews of progress in the decontamination of the area affected in the vicinity of Dounreay. [29796]

Sir Hector Monro: As at present, HM industrial pollution inspectorate and HM nuclear installations inspectorate, in co-operation with the UK Atomic Energy Authority, will be working to ensure that all actions related to radioactive waste and its disposal are carried out in accordance with modern standards.

All the waste metallic particles found near Dounreay were detected as a result of regular beach monitoring carried out by the UK Atomic Energy Authority and a history of the finding of the particles is contained in the joint report by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment and the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee.

The main recommendations of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee on this matter fall to be considered by the UK Atomic Energy Authority, in co-operation with the regulatory authorities. The Secretary of State will consider the question of how progress on decontamination is to be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the on-going discussions between the operators and the regulatory authorities.

Glasgow City Council Elections

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if anyone is to be prosecuted as a result of the alleged breach of electoral law relating to the submission of nominations in the Bridgeton ward of Glasgow city council for the elections held on 6 April 1995; and if he will make a statement. [32023]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Crown Counsel has instructed the procurator fiscal to take summary proceedings in Glasgow sheriff court in connection with alleged contraventions of section 65 of the Representation of the People Act 1983. One of the alleged contraventions relates to the Bridgeton ward of the city of Glasgow.

Schoolgirls (Computing Subjects)

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the secretary of State for Scotland how many girls in S5 and S6 studied computing subjects in education authority schools; and what percentage this was of the total number of S5 and S6 pupils in *(a)* 1989, *(b)* 1991 and *(c)* 1993; and if he will make a statement. [30860]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The number and percentage of girls studying computing subjects in S5 and S6 in education authority secondary schools in 1989, 1991 and 1993 are as follows:

Year	*Number in S5/S6*	*Percentage of S5/S6*
1989	4,933	7.8
1991	5,172	8.0
1993	[1]5,157	7.8

[1]In the figures for 1993 information was not available for two schools.

The figures do not include pupils studying computing subjects in short courses. In addition, many pupils study computing subjects in S3 and S4. Thus, the actual figure of girls studying computing subjects in education authority schools will be significantly higher than those numbers provided.

Rural Policy

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what progress has been made in the consultation process on rural policy in Scotland; which organisations he is consulting with; and when the White Paper will be published. [31892]

Sir Hector Monro: The current consultation on rural policy in Scotland has taken three main forms.

We sought the advice of the rural focus group—made up of representatives of the Central Scotland Countryside Trust, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Rural Forum, Scottish Agricultural college, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Homes, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Tourist Board, and chaired by the Scottish Office.

We commissioned Rural Forum Scotland to convene a series of conferences and workshops to examine specific themes of relevance to the White Paper and these were held across Scotland in May and June.

Almost 900 organisations and individuals were invited to submit ideas and comments and some have conducted their own conferences and surveys. So far, 112 responses have been received and these will be of considerable assistance in the development of the White Paper, which will be published in the autumn.

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

Mr. Chisholm: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the proposed allocation of risks between the national health service and the private sector for the proposed new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh; and what are the public expenditure implications. [31994]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh trust has yet to finalise details of the specification to be issued in September to its shortlisted tenderers. Therefore, details of proposed allocation of risks will not be available until that time. However, the trust will be seeking to transfer risk in the areas such as design, planning, construction, maintenance, equipment obsolescence, residual value of assets and performance in terms of quality support services. Until final details of risk transfer are available, the effect on public expenditure cannot be estimated.

Director, Information Directorate

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the recruitment of the director of his Department's information directorate; and what was her previous employment before joining the Scottish Office. [31362]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 29 June 1995]:* The director of my Department's information directorate, Ms Elizabeth Drummond, was recruited in April 1992 following an open recruitment campaign.

Ms Drummond's early career was spent with the Government Information Service. Immediately prior to joining the Scottish Office, she was employed by Westminster city council as head of public relations and publicity.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Electro-shock Weapons

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Attorney-General what action his Department has taken to follow up allegations made in January in relation to illegal and unauthorised production, export and arrangement of sale of electro-shock weapons and equipment; what legal action has been and is being undertaken in consequence of such investigations; and if he will make a statement. [32073]

The Attorney-General: The police responsible for the conduct of the investigation into possible offences arising out of allegations made January 1995 relating to electro-shock weapons have now submitted a report to the Crown Prosecution Service.

As to the matters under investigation in Scotland, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 May 1995 by the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland at column *576*) to the hon. Member for Cynon Valley (Mrs. Clwyd). I understand that the position remains unaltered.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Attorney-General, pursuant to his answer of 22 May, *Official Report*, column *452*, what progress is being made in the investigations into matters relating to British Aerospace and the export of electro-shock equipment. [32073]

The Attorney-General: The police have recently submitted a report to the Crown Prosecution Service which is at present being considered.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Child Benefit Claim Pack

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what channels are being used for the distribution of the leaflet "New Child Benefit Claim Paper: Can You Help"; and what factors underlay his choice of these channels. [31293]

Mr. Burt: The distribution of the child benefit claim pack is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Martyn Jones, dated 30 June 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the channels being used to distribute the Child Benefit claim pack and the factors underlying the choice of these channels.

Three main outlets are being used for the distribution of the pack. First, they are readily available to the public from local Social Security offices. Secondly, they are distributed directly to new and expectant mothers by inclusion in a complimentary baby products package, known as a Bounty Pack, which reaches 97.5 per cent. of new mothers in the UK per year. Third, they are available on request direct from the Child Benefit Centre, Washington.

The factors which underlay the choice of these channels were cost effectiveness, accessibility and the ability to contact the correct customer group.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many claims for the year 1994–95 have been made in *(a)* South Yorkshire, *(b)* Humberside, *(c)* North Yorkshire and *(d)* West Yorkshire for industrial disablement benefit for emphysema and chronic bronchitis; how many have been successful; how many have been refused and what grounds; and what are the comparable figures for the previous year. [31095]

Mr. Hague: The administration of industrial injuries disablement benefit is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member with such information as is available.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Martin Redmond, dated 30 June 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about claims made for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit in respect of chronic bronchitis and emphysema in Yorkshire and Humberside in 1994–95.

Information about the number of claims, their success rate and the number disallowed is not available in the exact format requested. This is because figures for the number of claims made since the end of the initial twelve month take-on period have been collected separately and in a slightly different format. The take-on period lasted from September 1993 to October 1994.

The available information is shown in the enclosed tables. The information in the first three columns of Table 1 was collected at Area Directorate levels. The information in the last two columns was collected at the Disability Benefit Centre (DBC) in Leeds, which covers the Yorkshire and Humberside area of the country. Leeds DBC also dealt with the claims from some customers outside these areas.

The information shown at Table 2 was collected at Area Directorate level and covers the six month period from October 1994 to March 1995. This table outlines successful claims and all three categories of disallowance; because of the 20 year rule, failure to meet the criteria for lung function loss or category 1 pneumoconiosis.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Table 1: September 1993–October 1994

			Failed (reason)		
Area	*Claims*	*Successful*	*20 year rule*	*Lung test*[1]	*Cat. 1 pneumoconiosis*
South Yorkshire and Humberside	6,521	773	171	6,551	3,957
North and West Yorkshire	2,676	420	90		

[1] These figures were collected by the Disability Benefits Centre (DBC) at Leeds. Leeds DBC also dealt with other areas so the figures do not equate exactly.

Table 2: October 1994–March 1995

			Failed (reason)		
Area	*Claims*	*Successful*	*20 year rule*	*Lung test*	*Cat. 1 pneumoconiosis*
South Yorkshire and Humberside	214	33	9	127	95
North and West Yorkshire	121	21	9	59	23

All tables include claims received but not decided within the period.
Source: 100 per cent. count, figures are subject to amendment.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many and what percentage of families with children age 18 years or under claimed housing benefit or its equivalent in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England in each since 1979. [31582]

Mr. Roger Evans: Information is not available in the form requested. Available information is set out in the table:

Housing Benefit—number of families with dependants aged 18 years or under and as a percentage of all families with dependants aged 18 years or under

	May 1990		*May 1991*		*May 1992*		*May 1993*	
Area	*Number (000s)*	*Per cent.*	*Number (000s)*	*Per cent.*	*Number (000s)*	*Per cent.*	*Number (000s)*	*Per cent.*
Yorkshire and Humberside	76	—	80	—	110	—	96	—
England	747	13.2	846	14.5	1,035	17.6	1,098	18.7

Source:
Housing benefit management information system, annual 1 per cent. sample inquiries with and without income support, taken at the end of May for each year.
Family Expenditure Survey, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993.
Notes:
1. The numbers given refer to the number of benefit units, which may be a single person with dependants or a couple with dependants.
2. The numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand and the percentages to one decimal place.
3. Information on total families with dependants under 19 is not available regionally, therefore we are unable to provide percentages for Yorkshire and Humberside.
4. Information on the number of families with dependants aged under 19 is not available prior to 1990 for housing benefit.
5. Reliable information is not available for York or North Yorkshire.

Pensioners' Capital

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what estimate he has made of the average capital owned by individuals on retirement in the form of *(a)* home ownership and *(b)* non-pension savings. [31234]

Mr Arbuthnot: The information is not available.

Personal Pensions

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the expenditure in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2030 on (i) national insurance rebates paid to members of appropriate personal pension schemes and (ii) the additional national insurance rebate paid to members of appropriate

personal pensions relative to that paid to members of contracted-out money purchase schemes. [31235]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The table shows estimates for the expenditure in 2010, 2020 and 2030 on the national insurance rebate payable to members of appropriate personal pension schemes using assumptions consistent with those used for the report by the Government Actuary on the "Financial Provisions of the Bill on the National Insurance Fund", Cm 2714. The rebate rates quoted in that report are provisional and will be reviewed before age related rebates come into effect in April 1997.

It is not possible to provide a valid estimate of additional expenditure on the national insurance rebates paid to members of APPS compared to what would have been paid if they had received rebates designed for members of contracted-out money purchase schemes. This is because total numbers of people with APPS would be likely to reduce significantly in those circumstances. The rebates for APPS will be set at a higher level than those for COMPS to reflect higher levels of providers' expenses and the delay in payment by the DSS of a greater part of the rebate. If the rebate for APPS failed to reflect these factors, it would not generally be worthwhile for people to take out or for providers to offer APPS.

Year	*Expenditure in £ billion (1994–95 prices)*
2010	2.7
2020	2.5
2030	2.2

Young People

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many young people in Wales who left school at 16 years were subsequently in receipt of *(a)* severe hardship payments under income support provision and *(b)* other Benefits Agency payments, in each of the past 10 years for which figures are available. [31610]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information is not available.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what percentage of young people who left care in each of the past five years for which figures are available are currently claiming benefits. [31618]

Mr. Evans: The information is not available.

Pensioners' Incomes

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the percentage of pensioners who will have an income on retirement in *(a)* the most recent year, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2020 which is (i) less than 25 per cent. of average earnings, (ii) less than 50 per cent. of average earnings, (iii) less than 75 per cent. of average earnings, (iv) equal to average earnings, (v) up to 25 per cent. more than average earnings, (vi) up to 50 per cent. more than average earnings and (vii) up to 75 per cent. more than average earnings. [31236]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The latest available information is for 1992 and is shown in the table. Forecasts of pensioners incomes at retirement for 2010 and 2020 are not available.

Gross income of recently retired pensioner units as a proportion of average earnings

Proportion of average earnings	*Percentage*
(i) Less than 25 per cent.	5
(ii) Less than 50 per cent.	43
(iii) Less than 75 per cent.	70
(iv) 100 per cent. (average earnings)	n/a
(v) Up to 125 per cent.	89
(vi) Up to 150 per cent.	93
(vii) Up to 175 per cent.	95

n/a = not available.

Source:

Family Expenditure Survey 1992.

Employment Gazette, February 1995.

Notes:

1. Average earnings are based on full time employees on adult rate in all industries and services for 1992.
2. Recently retired pensioner units are defined as single pensioner units and married couples where the individual or head of the household is less than five years over state pension age.
3. The proportion receiving precisely the same level of income as average earnings is not available.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the average pensioner income at retirement in *(a)* the most recent year, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2020, expressed as a percentage of average earnings. [31237]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The latest available information is for 1992. These estimates show that recently retired pensioner units received an average gross income equivalent to 74 per cent. of average earnings. Forecasts of pensioners' incomes at retirement for 2010 and 2020 are not available.

Source:

Family Expenditure Survey 1992

Employment Gazette, February 1995.

Notes:

1. Average earnings are based on full time employees on adult rate in all industries and services for 1992.
2. Recently retired pensioner units are defined as single pensioner units and married couples where the individual or head of the household is less than five years over state pension age.

Home Responsibilities Protection

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the annual cost by the year 2030 of replacing the special arrangement known as home responsibility protection with a credit for class 1 contributions for the same qualifying group; and on what basis he estimates this cost. [31932]

Mr. Arbuthnot: It is estimated by the Government Actuary's Department that replacing the special arrangements known as home responsibilities protection with a credit for class 1 contributions for the same qualifying group would cost £150 million by the year 2030.

State Earnings-related Pension

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the annual cost by the year 2030 of calculating entitlement to benefits under the state earnings-related pension scheme if a disregard was introduced for the final five years of earnings, but only if this disregard does not diminish the SERPS payment; and on what basis he estimates this cost. [31936]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The annual cost by the year 2030 of calculating entitlement to SERPS if a disregard was introduced for the final five years of earnings; and the denominator in calculating SERPS is also reduced by 5, is estimated to be about £2 billion in 2030–31.

Notes:

1. The cost is in 1994–95 prices and is the estimated increase in Retirement Pension expenditure.

2. This estimate is consistent with the figures in the Government Actuary's Report on the Pensions Bill 1994 and in the Government Actuary's Quinquennial Review on the National Insurance Fund.

3. This assumes that the increase in SERPS entitlement would apply equally to contracted-out and not contracted-out individuals.

4. This assumes SERPS accrues up to the financial year prior to reaching age 60 at an accrual rate of 20/44 per cent. rather than at a rate of 20/49 per cent. up to the year before reaching age 65.

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the annual cost by the year 2050 of calculating entitlement to benefits under the state earnings-related pensions scheme on the best 39 years of earnings; and on what basis he estimates this cost. [31935]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The estimated cost is £5 billion.

Notes:

1. The cost is in 1994–95 prices and is the estimated total increase in retirement pension expenditure.

2. This estimate assumes that the best 39 year rule would apply equally to contracted-in and contracted-out earnings.

3. This estimate is consistent with the assumptions and projections in the Government Actuary's report on the Pensions Bill 1994.

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are in receipt of state earnings-related pension (i) who earn more than £10,000 per year, and (ii) who earn more than £20,000 per year. [32005]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information is in the table.

Thousands

Reckonable earnings in 1992–93	*Contracted-in only*		*Mixed contracted-in/contracted-out*	
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*
£10,000 per year and over	1,287	485	370	218
£20,000 per year and over	211	33	88	32

Source:
1 per cent. sample from National Insurance Recording System.

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the annual costs of phasing in the reduction of the entitlement to the additional pension to a widow or widower over a 10-year period between 5 April 2000 and 6 April 2010 in 5 per cent. annual increments; and on what basis he estimates this cost. [31934]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information is in the table:

Year	*Cost £ million*
2005–08	350
2010–11	400
2015–16	300
2020–21	200

1. The cost is in 1994–95 prices and is the estimated total increase in retirement pension expenditure.

2. The estimate assumes that the increased level of additional pension would apply equally to contracted-in and contracted-out contributions.

3. This estimate is consistent with the assumptions and projections in the Government Actuary's report on the Pensions Bill 1994 and in the Government Actuary's Quinquennial Review on the National Insurance Fund.

State Retirement Pension

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the annual cost by the year 2030 of equalising the number of qualifying years for the category A pension at 39 for both women and men; and on what basis he estimates this cost. [31933]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The annual cost is estimated to be about £$\frac{1}{4}$ billion by 2030.

Notes:

1. The cost is in 1994–95 prices and is the estimated total increase in retirement pension expenditure.

2. This estimate assumes that the change would be made to male pension for awards from 2010 onwards and the female rule would remain as at present for all years.

3. The estimates are relative to the projected costs of basic pension after allowing for the changes in the Pensions Bill.

4. This estimate is consistent with the assumptions and projections in the Government Actuary's report on the Pensions Bill 1994 and in the Government Actuary's Quinquennial Review on the National Insurance Fund.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many *(a)* divorced and *(b)* widowed pensioners are receiving a full state pension based on their spouse's national insurance contribution record; and of these how many are also in receipt of (i) income support or (ii) other state benefits. [32074]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The figures for widowed and divorced pensioners are not available separately. The total number in March 1993 was 1,783.

It is not possible to identify how many of these people were receiving income support or other benefits.

Source:
Retirement Pension Statistics Biannual enquiry 31 March 1993.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for State for Social Security if he will estimate the annual income to the Exchequer of removing the lower earnings limit on employer contributions to national insurance contributions; and on what basis he estimates this sum. [31997]

Mr. Arbuthnot: If employers were to pay contributions on earnings below the lower earnings limit, the additional income would be an estimated £150 million in a full year. This figure was derived using information from the April 1993 new earnings survey, which was then adjusted to take account of the latest earnings estimates for 1995–96. The contribution rate is assumed to be 3 per cent. which is the rate currently payable by employers in respect of earnings just above the lower earnings limit.

Source:
Government Actuary's Department.

Funeral Expenses

Mr. Gunnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what changes have been made to the social fund funeral expenses regulations following those published in Cm 2858 in May. [31710]

Mr. Roger Evans: The Social Fund Maternity and Funeral Expenses (General) Amendments Regulations (SI 1995/1229) were laid on 9 May this year and came into force on 5 June.

The funeral payment scheme covers all the reasonable costs of burial or cremation disbursements arranged by the funeral director and allows up to £500 for his services. Everyone who is entitled to help with arranging a funeral through the social fund will be able to choose either a burial or cremation in all parts of the country. So total costs paid by the taxpayer could, in the case of burials, exceed £1,000.

A copy of the regulations is available in the Library.

Married Women's Pensions

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many women are in receipt of the married woman's pension of £35.25; and what is the Government's estimate of how this figure will change over the next 10 years. [32075]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The number of women in receipt of the married woman's pension of £35.25 at 31 March 1994 is 1,905,140.

An estimate of how this figure will change over the next 10 years is not available. However, over the next 10 years the total of category BL and ABL pensioners is likely to remain approximately stable. Within this group the numbers with category ABL will rise and numbers with category BL and ABL pensions will fall.

In the longer term, due to the effects of home responsibilities protection and the abolition of the married women's reduced rate option, more women will become entitled to a category A pension at over 60 per cent. The numbers with category A pensions will rise and the numbers with category BL and ABL pensions will fall.

Note:

Category BL pension is payable to a married woman on her husband's contributions at up to 60 per cent. of the standard category A rate, provided she and her husband have both reached pension age. Category ABL pension is payable to a married woman and is a combination of category A and category BL. Where a married woman's own category A entitlement is less than 60 per cent. of the standard rate, the pension is supplemented up to that level with category BL pension based on her husband's contributions.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people in residential or nursing homes have wives living elsewhere who receive the married woman's pension of £35.25. [32076]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many women in receipt of the married woman's pension of £35.25 *(a)* are also in receipt of income support and other state benefits, *(b)* have incomes above income support levels and other state benefit levels and *(c)* are entitled to but are not claiming income support and other state benefits. [32077]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many women in receipt of the married woman's pension of £35.25 would still be in receipt of income support and other state benefits if the substitution rules were changed to allow women living apart from their husband because the husband has gone into nursing or residential care to claim a full state pension. [32078]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information is not available.

DEFENCE

Royal Dockyards

Ms Rachel Squire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the redundancy and pension provisions for dockyard employees in the event of privatisation or another of the options currently under consideration. [31425]

Mr. Freeman: My right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced the Government's policy towards the future management of the royal dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth on 18 October 1993 at columns *39–41*. Since then, I, my predecessor and my officials have had numerous meeting with the national officers of trade unions with members employed by the Ministry of Defence and the dockyard companies—Devonport Royal Dockyard plc and Rosyth Royal Dockyard plc—which, I should stress, have been private sector companies since 1987, to discuss the proposed privatisation of the dockyards. I have found these meetings a valuable opportunity to clarify the concerns felt by the dockyard company employees who may be affected by the proposed privatisation. At my most recent such meeting, on 20 June, I undertook to give a full and considered statement, in the light of detailed legal and other advice, of my Department's position on the issues raised with me.

My officials have also discussed these issues with the tenderers for the dockyards—Devonport Management Ltd. at Devonport and Babcock International Group plc at Rosyth—and, where appropriate, this statement takes account of my understanding of those discussions. Each tenderer, of course, remains fully responsible for any statements that it has made or may make in the future.

The Government's preferred option for the future of the dockyards is that each should be moved wholly into the private sector as a separate and independent entity, provided the terms are right and meet the needs of the taxpayer and the Royal Navy. The Government believe that this would offer the dockyards the best opportunity to become more competitive in seeking work from my Department and other customers. As elsewhere in industry, maintaining competitiveness is crucial to employment levels; it is essential to a secure long-term future for the dockyards and their employees.

My Department is now holding detailed discussions with each tenderer with a view to agreeing satisfactory sale terms. No decisions have, however, yet been taken on whether to proceed with the sale of either dockyard. As I made clear in answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Plymouth, Sutton (Mr. Streeter) on 23 November 1994 at column *146*, I do not rule out other options for the future management of either dockyard; the detailed implications for dockyard company employees are, however, hypothetical in view of the Government's preferred option.

I appreciate the concerns, as expressed by the trade unions, of the dockyard company employees about the effect that the proposed sale may have on them. I understand the stance of the trade unions, but I believe that their concerns, as they have articulated them, are misplaced. They take less than full account either of the opportunities for the employees and all others concerned that would be opened up by privatisation of the existing protections available under employment law.

It is important to be clear about what is proposed. Under the proposed arrangements for the sale of each dockyard, the employer of the existing dockyard company employees would remain the same. Terms and conditions of employment for existing employees, including redundancy and pension entitlements and collective bargaining agreements, would continue unless or until specifically changed. Both tenderers are aware that contracts of employment can be varied only by means allowed for under employment law—that is to say, only, in normal circumstances, by the agreement of the parties; unilateral variation may be a breach of contract and the law prescribes remedies in such circumstances.
The law does not, however, provide for employees or trade unions to have an absolute veto over changes to terms and conditions of employment.

Each dockyard company is responsible for the terms and conditions of employment of its employees and for any changes to them, subject of course to the provisions of the term contracts, due to expire no later than April 1996, between my Department and the dockyard contractors—Devonport Management Ltd. and Babcock Rosyth Defence Ltd.—under which each dockyard is currently managed. As the trade unions have frequently referred to provisions of the term contracts, I should stress that neither term contract was intended to impede the conduct of bargaining between employer and employee, nor did either affect the legal position that contracts of employment may be terminated on notice. During the course of the term contracts, changes to terms and conditions have been negotiated between the contractors and the trade unions representing dockyard company employees. The responsibility for the management of the dockyards is now a matter for the contractors and would, after any sale, be a matter for the new owners. Although both tenderers have assured my Department that they will in all cases comply with all provisions of statute, statutory instruments, regulations and codes of practice relating in any way to employment, the provision of services or the conduct of collective bargaining, I do not intend to impose any constraints on the right of any new owners to manage the businesses as they see fit in order to secure future success—success which will be in the interest of the employees.

I understand that discussions have begun between each tenderer, the dockyard company employees and their duly authorised representatives about the tenderers' approach to employment issues which may arise after any sale. I welcome this fact. It is not the Government's intention to intervene in these discussions or to seek to determine their outcome.

I understand the trade unions to be seeking four principal guarantees:

(i) that the redundancy entitlements of Dockyard company employees should be protected in all circumstances;

(ii) that the pensions of Dockyard company employees should be protected, with no change after any sale except by agreement;

(iii) that there should be no change to terms and conditions of employment of Dockyard company employees except by negotiation and agreement; and

(iv) that there should be contractual guarantees relating to the future workload at each Dockyard.

Redundancy liabilities and entitlements

Although the term "redundancy entitlement" is widely used, it is important to be clear what is meant. The redundancy scheme at each dockyard, which is part of dockyard company employees' terms and conditions of employment, includes rules for calculating the payment that a dockyard company employee would be entitled to receive at any given point in time if made redundant in a redundancy situation as defined in the scheme. A dockyard company employee's terms and conditions therefore entitle him to receive a contingent payment on redundancy which is calculated in accordance with the rules of the scheme. As part of his terms and conditions of employment, those rules may be changed only by means allowed for under employment law or any provisions of the redundancy scheme itself. Any failure to make a redundancy payment in accordance with the redundancy scheme may be a basis for an employee to pursue a legal remedy against the employer.

Both tenderers have made clear their view that if the long-term future of each dockyard is to be secured, the issue of the redundancy entitlements of the dockyard company employees must be addressed. At the same time, both tenderers recognise the importance to the dockyard company employees of their service up to the time of any sale of the dockyards in the determination of their redundancy payments. Each tenderer has assured my Department that, in the commercial circumstances currently envisaged, which will where appropriate be the subject of negotiation between my Department and each tenderer, it does not intend to seek to impose changes in the redundancy payments due for past service under the existing redundancy scheme.

Although the Government can give no guarantees on the way in which redundancy payments are calculated, I consider, as indicated in my supplementary answer to the hon. Member for Plymouth, Devonport (Mr. Jamieson) on 6 June at column 8, that the redundancy entitlements of the existing dockyard company employees, enshrined as they are in their contracts of employment, are already properly protected in law and that the proposed privatisation would not impair this protection.

It may be helpful to set out clearly my Department's continuing policy with regard to the future recovery of redundancy costs by the dockyard operators from the Ministry of Defence. Under current arrangements and subject to certain conditions, my Department reimburses the dockyard contractors for the costs of any redundancies properly incurred. These arrangements are co-terminous with the term contracts and will therefore lapse at their expiry within the next nine months. Future provisions for any recovery of redundancy costs from my Department will be a commercial matter for negotiation between it and the tenderers. My Department's position is that the normal arrangements between it and private sector companies for recovering such costs should apply in the case of the dockyards. As it is, and will remain for some years, the major customer for each dockyard, my Department, will, recognising the particular circumstances at the dockyards, consider making a commercialy appropriate contribution to any redundancy costs at the dockyards after any sale, where these are directly attributable to special or unusual factors for which my Department is responsible, either as a direct payment to the company or through inclusion in its overheads. The detailed arrangements for any such reimbursement—not, I stress, the details of the way in which an individual's redundancy payment is calculated—are for negotiation between my Department and each tenderer as part of the overall arrangements for any sale. Any such arrangement would, as now, be a contractual matter between the company concerned and my Department alone.

In the light of the protection afforded by the law to employees' terms and conditions and of my Department's policy on cost recovery as set out above, I do not think it appropriate to consider making further provision in relation to the payment of redundancy entitlements or liabilities.

Pensions

On the subject of pensions, I have already made clear to the House in my supplementary answer to the hon. Member for Devonport on 6 June at column 8 that accrued benefits as at the point of sale will be given protection. Under the arrangements envisaged for the proposed sale, the existing pension scheme at each dockyard would continue after sale, subject to certain amendments being discussed with the tenderers and the trustees, including, in accordance with received good pensions practice, the appointment of an independent trustee. Each tenderer has indicated that it is willing to take on the current scheme, with any agreed amendments, at the point of any sale; both tenderers have indicated that they see scope for making changes to the schemes to improve the competitiveness of the business from which the employees derive their livelihoods, but each has declared that it would seek to make such changes after consultation, negotiation and agreement wherever possible.

The ways in which pension arrangements may be changed are governed by relevant legislation and the terms of the trust deed and rules applicable to each pension scheme. Looking beyond the proposed sale, the relevant points in relation to each scheme are, in broad outline, as follows:

(i) The actuary to the scheme would generally determine the overall required contribution rate and any changes to it.

(ii) changes proposed by the employer to benefits under the scheme would, as now, require the consent of the trustees, who would include member representatives and an independent trustee;

(iii) the employees' contribution rate would primarily be for the employer to determine but this, and any change, would in the normal course of events be the subject of consultation and negotiation between the employer, the employees and their duly authorised representatives, with a view to reaching agreement wherever possible.

Any employer may bring about more fundamental changes to a scheme by terminating it and replacing it by alternative arrangements; in that event, accrued benefits relating to service up to the point of termination would be provided in accordance with the trust deed and rules. The law does not normally require the consent of the trustees or the members of the scheme to such action. It may, however, be open in certain circumstances to the members of the scheme to seek legal redress against the employer.

Although the Government can give no guarantees about the provision of pension benefits of dockyard company employees relating to service after the date of any sale, I believe that the law and the trust deed and rules of each scheme provide satisfactory protection for the pensions of existing dockyard company employees. The Government therefore see no need to make further provision in this respect.

Other changes to terms and conditions

With regard to other changes to terms and conditions of employment, both tenderers know that employment law governs the ways in which these may be made and provides protection against unlawful dismissal. Changes must, wherever possible, be achieved after consultation, negotiation and agreement between the employer, the employees concerned and their duly authorised representatives where applicable; only if it proves impracticable to reach agreement may the question of unilateral change arise.

While each tenderer has made clear that it is reviewing terms and conditions of employment, both have indicated that no decisions have been taken in relation to possible changes to these. Each, moreover, has expressed its determination, where it may wish to seek changes, to continue to do so through established local procedures for dealing with such matters after consultation, negotiation and agreement wherever possible. Although the Government can provide no guarantees about the means by which such changes may be sought, we believe that employment law provides sufficient protection for dockyard company employees, in the same way as for all other comparable groups of employees, and that no further provisions would be appropriate.

Future work load

Finally, on the question of future work load, the Government's overall policy of concentrating nuclear refitting at Devonport and providing Rosyth with an allocated programme of surface refitting work was set out to the House on 24 June 1993 at columns 447–450 and there has, as I made clear in answer to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark) on 25 May 1995 at column *658*, been no change to that policy. We have indicated that contractual provisions relating to the future work load at each dockyard could be a matter for negotiation with tenderers and this is a subject of discussion with them. Any contractual arrangements will need to take account of the many operational and other factors that lead to regular changes in the refit programme, and the award of individual refit contracts will continue to be subject to negotiations about price on the basis of my Department's requirements.

Information and consultation

The Government and both tenderers are aware of their obligations under the law and relevant agreements; each has stated that it intends to honour these. For its part, my Department remains committed to inform and consult, insofar as it has obligations to do so, those who are, or may be, affected by the proposed privatisation of the royal dockyards throughout the process of moving towards any sale transactions. At this stage, and until such time as any firm decision is taken to proceed with any sale, my Department's responsibilities with regard to the provision of information to, and consultation of, dockyard company employees relate only to the following matters:

(i) matters of general principle relating to the proposed sale;

(ii) the conduct of the sale process and its associated time scale; and

(iii) the general arrangements that would apply to the future management and ownership of each dockyard, insofar as only my Department can comment on these: aspects within the remit of the prospective future private sector owner are for that company.

The provision of information and consultation in relation to redundancy entitlements, pensions and other terms and conditions of employment is for the tenderer or, as appropriate, dockyard company in question.

My Department is separately obliged to consult its own employees and their representatives in respect of the implications of the proposed sale transactions and connected arrangements for Ministry of Defence staff. This process will be taken forward as and when appropriate.

In the spirit of my answer to the hon. Member for Dunfermline, West (Ms Squire) on 6 June at column *148*, I and my officials are very willing to meet the trade unions as and when appropriate over the next months about matters that are the responsibility of my Department. As I have already made clear to the trade unions, my Department's commitment, within the parameters listed above, to inform and consult at the appropriate time with dockyard company employees does not extend to standing in the way of, or influencing, discussions between each tenderer, the relevant dockyard company, its employees and their duly authorised representatives, about how the tenderers might each wish to approach employment issues after any sale. The emphasis should henceforth shift to those discussions. The tenderers, employees and their trade unions should now make use of all appropriate local and other channels for the provision of information and consultation to take the process forward with a view to securing the long-term future of both dockyards and their employees.

Forces Exhibition, Aldershot

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if Nigeria has been invited to send a delegation to the Royal Navy and British Army equipment exhibition taking place in Aldershot in September. [31780]

Mr. Freeman: Nigeria has not been invited to send a delegation to the Royal Navy and British Army equipment exhibition taking place in Aldershot in September.

Attack Helicopter

Mr. Colvin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much money his Department has invested in the development and other costs of each of the three final contenders and their systems in the attack helicopter contest. [30870]

Mr. Freeman: The UK is participating with France and Germany in the development of the long range TRIGAT missile system offered with Tiger by BAe/Eurocopter: the UK's share of development costs to 31 May 1995 was £210 million, at 1995–96 prices. The UK also co-operated with France during the 1980s in the development of the RTM 322 engine which is offered as an option for the Westland Helicopters Apache; the UK's share of the development costs was about £21 million. It is likely that some other equipments offered by the attack helicopter bidders may be derived, in whole or in part, from earlier developments to which the Ministry of Defence has contributed; this is, however, unquantifiable.

Memorandum of Understanding (Britain and Indonesia)

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what were the provisions of the memorandum of understanding signed in November 1991 by the British and Indonesian Governments. [30802]

Mr. Freeman: Details of exchanges between Governments are confidential; and it has been the general policy of successive governments not to reveal them.

Al-Yamamah Programmes

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* internal and *(b)* external audit functions his Department exercises (i) on its own behalf and (ii) on behalf of others in respect of contracts place under the Al-Yamamah programmes. [31279]

Mr. Freeman: All my Department's accounts are subject to the normal audit arrangements, the results of which are reported as appropriate. It is not the Government's practice to comment on detailed matters concerning individual defence export sales.

International Military Services Ltd.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* income and *(b)* offset of costs his Department derives from the administrative expenses of International Military Services Ltd. [31280]

Mr. Freeman: None.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the businesses or subsidiaries disposed of by International Military Services Ltd. since July 1991. [31281]

Mr. Freeman: I understand that International Military Services Ltd. has not disposed of any businesses or subsidiaries since July 1991.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what basis he approved the appointment of the new chairman of International Military Services Ltd. in 1993. [31282]

Mr. Freeman: The chairman of International Military Services Ltd. is elected by the board of the company but board appointments are subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for Defence as the major shareholder.

Official Dinners

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the guests, cost and purpose of the dinners his Department or its agencies held at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in December 1993; and if he will indicate which Ministers were present. [31284]

Mr. Soames: Only one official dinner was held at the Royal Hospital Chelsea during December 1993. This was arranged for the Sultan of Brunei, who was on an official visit, at a total cost of £1,110.19. The following people attended:

HOSTS

Mr. Jeremy Hanley

Minister of State for the Armed Forces

General Sir Peter Inge

Chief of the General Staff

General Sir John Learmont

Quatermaster General

Lieutenant General Sir Peter Duffell

Inspector General Doctrine and Training

Lieutenant General Michael Rose

Commander United Kingdom Field Army

Major General Michael Walker

Assistant Chief of the General Staff

GUESTS

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam

His Excellency Dato Haji Mohamad Kassin Bin Haji Mohamad Daud

High Commissioner, Brunei Darussalam High Commission

Mr. A. J. Sindall

High Commissioner, Brunei

Marshall of the Royal Air Force Sir Peter Harding

Chief of the Defence Staff

Air Chief Marshall Sir Michael Graydon

Chief of the Air Staff

General Sir Brian Kenny

Governor, Royal Hospital Chelsea

Lord Weinstock

Managing Director, General Electric Company

Sir Dennis Thatcher

Mr. Thorold Masefield

Assistant Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Major General Robert Corbett

General Officer Commanding London District

Major General Jack Deverell

Director General Army Manning and Recruiting

Major General Mike Jackson

Director General Personal Services (Army)

Major General (retired) David Pank

Chief Executive of Newbury Racecourse

Mr. Christopher Hanbury

Former Equerry to His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei

Mr. Max Hastings

The Editor Daily Telegraph

Lieutentant Colonel Hamon Massey

Commanding Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment

Lieutentant Colonel Hj Brahim bin Jumahat

Defence Adviser High Commission Brunei

Live Animal Exports

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what agreement has been entered into for the export of livestock by air from the military airbase at Thurley, north of Bedford. [32030]

Mr. Soames: My Department has entered into no agreement for the export of livestock from Thurleigh airfield, nor have we been asked to enter into such an agreement.

Orders

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department continues to consider contract bids from the defence companies Borletti, Gebruder Junghans, and AS Raufoss. [31770]

Mr. Freeman *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* No. The position remains as stated by my predecessor on 26 November 1993 at column *239*.

Public Interest Immunity Certificates

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many public interest immunity certificates he has signed in each of the last three years. [31775]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* Since the answer to the hon. Member for Oldham, West (Mr. Meacher) on 10 March 1994, *Official Report*, column *399*, I have signed two public interest immunity certificates—one for each of two potential military witnesses for the prosecution in a criminal case. Both certificates set out the national security and personal safety grounds for screening the witnesses from the public. In the event, the witnesses were not called to give evidence and the certificates were not used.

Laser Weapons

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if it is Government policy to support a protocol to ban laser weapons or blinding as a method of warfare; and if he will make a statement; [31201]

(2) what measures Her Majesty's Government are taking to persuade other countries to agree to a ban on laser weapons. [31202]

Mr. Freeman: The Government would be prepared to support the addition to the UN weaponry convention of a new protocol covering lasers, if it were to meet humanitarian concerns without restricting normal military uses of lasers. We are considering specific proposals.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the study by F. H. Cripps and A. Stimson at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment entitled "The Distribution of Uranium 235 and Plutonium 239 around the United States Airforce base at Greenham Common". [31072]

Mr. Freeman: The report is currently being retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Acts 1958 and 1967. It will be reviewed at regular intervals until release into the custody of the Public Record Office becomes possible.

Mr. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultations he has had with his United States counterpart in regard to his announcement on 18 June that the United States wishes to resume nuclear tests. [31123]

Mr. Freeman: It is for the United States Government to determine what is necessary to ensure the safe stewardship of their nuclear weapons.

Mr. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the unclassified version of his departmental report evaluating the effectiveness of the Migrant Echo nuclear weapons accident exercise in April 1994; [31066]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the scenario used by the Migrant Echo nuclear weapons emergency exercise held in Suffolk in April 1994; and if he will make a statement on the exercise. [31068]

Mr. Howard: I have been asked to reply.

Exercise Migrant Echo was an exercise which was held on 14–15 April 1994, prior to Exercise Diver Mist, with the objective of testing the joint UK-US procedures for dealing with a terrorist threat to nuclear materials held on a RAF base in Suffolk.

A series of classified contingency plans exist for responding to a wide range of terrorist threats, including those which might involve the threatened or actual use of nuclear, chemical and biological materials. In the interests of national security and the protection of the public these are regularly reviewed, tested and updated in the light of changing circumstances.

Peacekeeping Medals

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many United Kingdom personnel have been awarded UN peacekeeping medals in each year since 1965. [31509]

Mr. Soames: Information on the number of UN peacekeeping medals awarded to United Kingdom personnel is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by whom the decision to award a UN peacekeeping medal is taken. [31510]

Mr. Soames: Within the United Nations the decision to award a UN peacekeeping medal is established by the Secretary-General. The award of the medal is authorised by the Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations. In the United Kingdom, final approval for the acceptance of the medal by United Kingdom service men and women is granted by her Majesty The Queen on the advice of the chiefs of staff, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals.

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days service on a UN peacekeeping mission are necessary before qualifying for a United Nations peacekeeping medal *(a)* for each NATO country and *(b)* for the United Kingdom. [31506]

Mr. Soames: The qualifying period for a United Nations peacekeeping medal for service on a Nations peacekeeping mission for all NATO countries, including the United Kingdom, is 90 days' consecutive service.

Mail Deliveries

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the efficiency of mail deliveries to and from service men based at Incerlik, Turkey; [30946]

(2) What is the average time taken by mail each way between the United Kingdom and service men based at Incerlik, Turkey; and if he will take steps to improve the speed of delivery. [30947]

Mr. Soames: The average delivery time for mail between the United Kingdom and Incerlik should be seven days. Recently, however, mail has been taking longer than this and a review of mail operations has been conducted. A number of improved procedures and checks have been identified and where possible these will be implemented.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 4 July 1995

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32215]

Mr. Horam: This information is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Planning Inspectorate

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Plymouth, Sutton (Mr. Streeter) on 26 June, *Official Report*, column *462*, if he will make a national breakdown as between the Department of the Environment and the Welsh Office of the staff employed in the planning inspectorate, effective on 1 April *(a)* 1994 and *(b)* 1995. [32444]

Mr. Horam: The planning inspectorate is an executive agency jointly funded by the Department of the Environment and the Welsh Office. The national breakdown of full-time equivalent staff employed by the planning inspectorate was:

	1 April 1994	*1 April 1995*
England	580	563
Wales	25	21

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32170]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Lord Chancellor's Department spent £7,162,000 in 1993–94 and £6,991,000 in 1994–95 on travel and subsistence, both figures at 1993–94 prices. The cost of travel claims alone and the type of transport used could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Magistrates

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what are the numbers of magistrates appointed from each ward in Newport, Gwent, in each of the past five years; and what are their perceived political loyalties. [32102]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The number of magistrates appointed from each ward in Newport in each of the last five years and their stated political affiliation is as follows:

Year	*Ward*	*Number*	*Politics*
1990	Caerleon	1	Labour
	Rogerstone	1	Labour
	The Graig	1	Conservative
	Outside borough	1	Labour
1991	Alt-yr-yn	1	Labour
1992	Alt-yr-yn	1	Labour
	The Graig	1	Liberal Democrat
1993	Alt-yr-yn	2	Labour
	Llanwern	1	Labour
	Outside borough	1	Labour
1994	Caerleon	1	Labour
		1	Conservative
	Langstone	1	Labour
	Ringland	1	Labour
	Rogerstone	2	Labour
	The Graig	1	Liberal Democrat
	Outside borough	1	Uncomitted

Small Claims Court

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if there will be a full period of public consultation before the small claims court limit is increased; and if he will make a statement. [32526]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Lord Woolf consulted widely in the preparation of his interim report. In view of this, the Lord Chancellor does not intend to undertake further public consultation on the question whether he should implement Lord Woolf's recommendation that the limit for small claims, other than those for personal injury, should be raised to £3,000. The power to make the necessary amendments rests with the county court rule committee which, as part of its consideration of the matter, consults interested parties.

Libel Law (Printers)

Mr. Garrett: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will review the libel law to provide printers with the defence of innocent dissemination. [32390]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Government have already decided that the defence of innocent dissemination should be available to printers, and will introduce legislation as soon as there is a suitable opportunity.

PRIME MINISTER

Engagements

Sir Peter Tapsell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list his official engagements for Tuesday 4 July. [30992]

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list his official engagements for Tuesday 4 July 1995. [30993]

The Prime Minister: This morning I had meetings with ministerial colleagues and others. In addition to my duties in this House I shall be having further meetings later today.

European Monetary Union

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what is his policy towards the adoption of a single currency outside the rules of the European Union by countries wishing to do so. [32369]

The Prime Minister: The EC treaty now provides the institutional framework for the adoption of a single currency. It would not be legally permissible for any member states to adopt a single currency otherwise than in accordance with this framework if that prevented or fettered the discharge by the Community institutions of their functions in accordance with the treaty.

The United Kingdom's protocol, annexed to the EC treaty, means that the United Kingdom shall not be committed to move to the third stage of economic and monetary union without a separate decision to do so by its Government and Parliament.

Chemical Weapons Convention

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Prime Minister, pursuant to his statement on the EU Cannes summit of 28 June, (1) when he plans to bring forward legislation to ratify the chemical weapons convention. [32155]

(2) on what grounds he signed a statement calling for the chemical weapons convention to enter into force without delay. [32156]

The Prime Minister: The Government remain fully committed to the chemical weapons conventions. Primary legislation is required to implement the convention in the UK and to enable UK ratification. Work is going ahead on the preparation of the necessary legislation. It is the intention of my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade in the coming weeks to publish a bill in draft for consultation with a view to introducing it as soon as parliamentary time permits.

No. 10 Downing Street

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Prime Minister, if he will state the rules governing the making of announcements relating to party business in, or using the facilities of No. 10 Downing Street. [31987]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* Ministers under this and previous Administrations have been allowed—at their own or party expense—to make use of No. 10 Downing street for party business, except for certain purposes during general elections.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32168]

Mr. Howard: The Department's computerised travel claims payment systems do not record information according to the categories requested. The cost of deriving this information from manual records would be disproportionate.

Former Foreign Heads of State

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list all former heads of state of foreign countries who currently have permission to reside in the United Kingdom; and what privileges and status are accorded to each; [32518]

(2) how many former heads of state of foreign countries or members of their family are currently awaiting decisions on their domiciliary status in the United Kingdom. [32521]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: This information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. In any event, it is not our normal practice to disclose information about the immigration status of individuals.

Mr. Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the current status of ex-King Constantine of Greece in the United Kingdom; and what privileges and precedence are accorded to him and his family. [32519]

Mr. Baker: It is not our normal practice to disclose information about an individual's immigration status.

Prisoners

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged from 18 to 21 years were serving a prison sentence of 10 years or more on 19 June. [31704]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Brian Landers to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 4 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women aged from 18 to 21 years were serving a prison sentence of 10 years or more on 19 June.

The latest available information is for 31 May when there were 130 men and 7 women aged from 18 to 21 years in Prison Service custody, who were serving sentences of 10 years or more.

Information on the prison population is published in successive volumes of "Prison Statistics England and Wales". The latest edition, containing figures for 1993, is available in the Library.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women were classified as category A prisoners in prisons in England and Wales on 19 June. [31277]

Mr. Forsyth: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Brian Landers to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 4 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question about the number of women classified as category A prisoners in prisons in England and Wales

On 19 June there were seven female category A prisoners held in Prison Service establishments in England and Wales.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the number of places in special secure units in prisons in England and Wales and the number of inmates being held in such units as of 19 June. [31278]

Mr. Forsyth: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Brian Landers to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 4 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question about the number of places in Special Secure Units in prisons in England and Wales and the number of prisoners in such units.

There are currently twenty three places in Special Secure Units in prisons in England and Wales. Fourteen of them are at Whitemoor prison, where the Special Secure Unit was re-opened on 14 June 1995 and nine at Full Sutton prison. On 19 June there were six prisoners held in these units.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 18 April, *Official Report*, column 92, if he will give a breakdown of the ethnic backgrounds of prisoners transferred to hospitals under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last 10 years. [31219]

Mr. Forsyth *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Brian Landers to Mr. Paul Flynn, dated 4 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question asking for a breakdown of the ethnic backgrounds of prisoners transferred to hospitals under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last ten years.

Ethnic information is only available for final discharge from prison to hospital since 1993. This covers all reasons for transfer; including those transferred under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act for whom a separate ethnic breakdown is not available. It is shown in the attached table separately for males and females for the years 1993 and 1994.

Final discharges from prison to hospital

	1993		*1994*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
White	607	44	550	58
Black total	214	8	236	23
African	50	2	41	6
Caribbean	143	3	142	12
Other	21	3	53	5
South Asian total	24	1	20	1
Bangladeshi	2	0	2	0
Indian	14	1	7	1
Pakistani	8	0	11	0
Total Chinese and other Asian	9	1	17	1
Chinese	0	0	1	0
Other Asian	9	1	16	1
Not recorded/unknown/other	20	3	17	0
Total	874	57	840	83

Film Censorship

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on the certification by the British Board of Film Classification of the recent video showing deaths by execution; and if he will make a statement. [31725]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: My right hon. and learned Friend has received two letters from members of the public concerned that the video "Executions" has received a certificate from the British Board of Film Classification.

The Government are aware of the public concern about this film. However, the British Board of Film Classification is an independent body, and the Government have no powers to influence its classification decisions. Before awarding a classification certificate, the BBFC is required to take into account any harm which a video work might cause through the manner in which the work deals with, among other things, violent or horrific behaviour or incidents. I understand that this particular work was viewed by the full board of the BBFC, who concluded that it was appropriate to grant it an "18" certificate.

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31308]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: In 1993–94 the Home Office paid grants to approximately 900 voluntary organisations and entered into contracts with seven. In 1994–95, grants were paid to approximately 200 organisations and contracts entered into with six. The fall in the number of organisations receiving grants directly from the Home Office reflects changes in the methods for paying certain grants between 1993–94 and 1994–95.

The Home Office paid £64.4 million to the voluntary sector in 1993–94 and £68.8 million in 1994–95. These figures include Home Office money given out as grants by the Commission for Racial Equality and, in 1994–95, by local probation services.

NATIONAL HERITAGE

Hotels

Mr. Pendry: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) what is his estimate of the number of properties regularly operating as hotels in England with fewer than six bed spaces; [32028]

(2) how many hotels in England have more than six bed spaces. [32029]

Mr. Dorrell: There are no figures on the number of bed spaces in hotels and similar establishments. However, the database of all serviced accommodation stock known to the English tourist board shows a total of 15,000 establishments with six bedrooms or less, and a further 14,250 with more than six bedrooms.

Radios

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what representations he has received from the Association of Independent Radio Contractors about the concentrations of radio ownership in major urban areas. [31945]

Mr. Dorrell: I met representatives of the AIRC on 28 June and discussed a number of issues. The issue of ownership in urban areas was specifically raised by AIRC at a meeting with Lord Astor on 16 March.

Television

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what is the Government's policy on the revised television without frontiers directive. [31954]

Mr. Dorrell: The Commission's proposal for a new directive to amend the television without frontiers dDirective (89/552/EEC) was communicated to the Council on 14 June and is under consideration in a Council working group of officials. My Department will shortly be seeking the views of the UK industry on the proposals; and on explanatory memorandum will be provided in the usual way.

I have made it clear on a number of occasions that, while the Government welcome many of the changes to the 1989 directive proposed by the Commission, we are strongly opposed to the proposed changes to the quota regime on programme content. And so are most of our partners.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what has been the change in the level of ITV's spending on programming over the last five years in real terms. [31918]

Mr. Dorrell: For ITV networked programmes the ITV network centre spending budgets for each of the years 1993–95, expressed in real terms at 1995 prices, deflated by HM Treasury GDP market prices deflator of 27 June 1995, were:

1993: £539.8 million

1994: £544.2 million

1995: £552 million (provisional)

Comparable figures for 1991 and 1992 are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

HEALTH

District Auditor Reports

Mr. Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in how many cases the district auditor has prepared a section 20(3) report in respect of the health service; and in each case what is the name of the body concerned, the reason a report was prepared and the date on which she received it; [28240]

(2) pursuant to her answer of 24 May *Official Report*, column *591*, if she will place in the Library the section 20(3) report on the City and East London family health services authority which she received from the district auditor on 2 February. [28241]

Mr. Malone: Reports issued under section 20(3) of the 1990 Act are not definitive analyses and are not intended for publication. Examination of such reports is required to establish the legal position in each case and any necessary disclosure is achieved by notation of the appropriate statutory accounts.

Pay Review Bodies

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what criteria are used for selecting new members of the pay review body; [30429]

(2) what are the criteria for selection of the chair of the pay review body; and what plans she has to change them. [30430]

Mr. Malone: Both chairman and members of the two review bodies covering national health service staff are appointed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on the advice of Ministers.

In making the appointments, Ministers look for relevant background experience, for the ability to analyse the issues coming before the review body, and for the capacity to form independent judgments on those issues.

The procedures may need to be reviewed in the light of the Government's decisions on the Nolan committee's recommendations.

Counselling

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has carried out into counselling versus antidepressants in primary care; with what findings; and if she will make a statement. [31505]

Mr. Malone: There is no research currently being undertaken by the Department's policy research programme—formerly the centrally commissioned programme.

The national health service research and development programme includes two current projects in its health technology assessment programme, which has identified counselling in primary care as a priority area. One compares the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy, and usual treatment by the general practitioner for patients with depression and mixed anxiety and depression. The second is to establish the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of counselling in primary care for patients with chronic depression and anxiety.

Pregnancies

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the number of *(a)* pregnancies among teenage girls, *(b)* births to unmarried mothers and *(c)* abortions performed in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England in each year since 1979. [31602]

Mr. Sackville: The number of conceptions to women aged under 20 and the total number of live births outside marriage are shown in the table. The data are given for each year from 1979 to the most recent year for which information is available—1991 for conceptions and 1993 for births. Conception statistics by county and county district are not readily available before 1989, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of abortions by regional health authority of termination are published in the OPCS Series AB 6–19 and in the OPCS Monitor AB95/1 for 1993; copies of which are available in the Library. For reasons of confidentiality, abortion data by area of termination are published only down to RHA level.

	Area of residence at time of birth or abortion			
Year	*England*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*North Yorkshire*	*York county district*
a) Conceptions to women under 20[1]				
1979	113,574	12,991	n/a	n/a
1980	110,326	12,541	n/a	n/a
1981	108,202	12,073	n/a	n/a
1982	106,865	12,229	n/a	n/a
1983	105,374	11,959	n/a	n/a
1984	110,966	12,646	n/a	n/a
1985	111,991	13,143	n/a	n/a
1986	111,446	13,364	n/a	n/a
1987	115,671	13,679	n/a	n/a
1988	113,345	13,488	n/a	n/a
1989	110,409	13,370	1,173	241
1990	108,037	13,022	1,193	240
1991	96,843	11,907	1,072	201
b) All live births outside marriage				
1979	66,056	7,087	575	163
1980	73,413	8,067	635	195
1981	76,916	8,434	640	183
1982	85,188	9,396	747	209
1983	94,022	10,491	840	240
1984	104,404	11,694	939	255
1985	119,235	13,350	1,103	302
1986	133,477	15,141	1,180	324
1987	149,556	16,691	1,353	384
1988	167,179	18,593	1,575	421
1989	175,027	19,357	1,682	453
1990	188,548	21,098	1,816	507
1991	198,938	22,014	1,880	485
1992	202,425	22,587	1,990	482
1993	203,581	22,238	1,992	475

[1] Includes pregnancies which resulted in either a maternity at which one or more live or stillbirths occurred or a termination of pregnancy by abortion under the 1967 Act. Pregnancies which led to spontaneous abortion are not included.

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many voluntary sector organisations her Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31309]

Mr. Bowis: The Department makes a large number of grants to voluntary organisations, the main channel being the section 64 general scheme. For details of grants given in 1993–94 and 1994–95 I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave to the hon. Member for Clwyd, South-West (Mr. Jones) on 20 June at column *205*.

The Department does not normally enter into contractual arrangements for services with voluntary organisations.

Temazepam

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what further plans she has to reschedule temazepam; and if she will make a statement; [31382]

(2) what are the criteria which she applies to reschedule drug substances under the terms of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; how temazepam relates to these criteria; and if she will make a statement. [31394]

Mr. Bowis: No rescheduling may occur under the 1991 Act except after consultation with, or on the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs; and the council is required to have regard to misused drugs which are having, or appear to them capable of having, harmful effects sufficient to constitute a social problem. The council has recommended that temazepam should be controlled under schedule 3 of the relevant regulations rather than schedule 4. The Government's careful consideration of this recommendation is continuing.

My right hon. Friend the Lord President of the Council announced on 10 May at column *756* that the Department is engaged in consultations with a view to banning national health service prescribing by general practitioners of the soft gelatin gel-filled temazepam capsules and the Home Department is taking steps to impose safe custody requirements on manufacturers and wholesalers.

Nursing Homes

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the economic impact on the independent nursing sector of referrals by North Yorkshire county council to nursing homes owned by that council; [31674]

(2) what percentage of referrals by North Yorkshire county council are to council-owned nursing homes; [31676]

(3) what representations she has received from the independent nursing sector on referrals by North Yorkshire county council to homes owned by that council. [31666]

Mr. Bowis: Local authorities may own residential care homes but not nursing homes. I have received representations from my hon. Friend about this matter.

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the number of nursing homes providing specialist care in North Yorkshire owned *(a)* privately and *(b)* by the county council. [31673]

Mr. Bowis: Centrally held data on nursing home provision relates to health authority and not local authority areas. In 1993–94 there were 138 registered homes within the North Yorkshire health district. The table gives number of beds by specialisation.

	Number
Mental illness	453
People with learning disabilities	—
Maternity	—
Physically disabled	360
Alcohol and drug misuse	7
Other	3,850
Total number of beds	4,670

Local authorities do not own nursing homes.

Bridge Consultancy Report

Mr. French: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place a copy of the Bridge consultancy report in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [31700]

Mr. Bowis: This is a report commissioned by Gloucestershire social services. I understand that it is not a public document, but my hon. Friend may wish to approach the director of social services for Gloucestershire.

Private Health Care Facilities

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to monitor further expenditure on private health care facilities by NHS hospital trusts. [31841]

Mr. Sackville: Expenditure on health care purchased by national health service trusts from non-NHS providers is already monitored through financial returns.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines have been issued on the use of private health care and facilities by NHS hospital trusts. [31840]

Mr. Sackville: National health service trusts are free to buy in services from other providers, whether in the public or private sector, where they can benefit their patients by doing so.

Residential Homes

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the costs incurred by local authorities in referring people to local authority-owned homes. [31675]

Mr. Bowis: The available information is of gross expenditure by local authorities on residential accommodation for elderly or mentally ill people in local authority run establishments, which in 1993–94 is provisionally estimated to have amounted to £894 million.

Medicines Control Agency

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish the annual report and accounts of the Medicines Control Agency. [32851]

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: I have received the report and copies have today been laid before both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the requirements of section 5(2) and 5(3) of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921.

National Blood Service

Ms Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what was the total number of *(a)* scientific and *(b)* administrative staff employed by the National Blood Service for each month during the last year. [32025]

(2) what was the total number of *(a)* scientific and *(b)* administrative staff employed at (i) Plymouth blood transfusion centre, (ii) Lancaster blood transfusion centre, (iii) Liverpool blood transfusion centre, (iv) Brentwood blood transfusion centre and (v) Oxford blood transfusion centre for each month during the last year. [32026]

Mr. Sackville: These are matters for the National Blood Authority.

Cancer Screening

Ms Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she offers to purchasers on breast and cervical screening services for women over 45 years. [32024]

Mr. Sackville: The breast screening programme invites all women aged between 50 and 64 for three-yearly screening. Women aged 65 and over can ask to be screened every three years. Women aged under 50 who do not have breast symptoms cannot at present have routine breast screening by mammography.

The cervical screening programme invites all women between the ages of 20 to 64 for cervical cancer screening at least every five years. Women aged 65 and over who have not had clear smears within the previous 10 years should be invited for cervical cancer screening.

A substantial amount of quality guidance is issued by the Department and the NHS national screening co-ordinating team on a number of issues. These include the age range of women to be included in each screening

programme, management of the process and quality standards to be achieved. These are reviewed constantly.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in her Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32181]

Mr. Sackville: Information is not available in the form requested. The amount of claims for travel within the United Kingdom in the Department is shown in the table at constant prices. The Department does not provide bicycle allowances.

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
Rail and air travel	1,925,861	1,596,171
Other public transport (including car mileage)	1,581,820	1,572,110

Notes:

1. All costs are shown at 1994–95 prices.
2. Costs are for departmental administration only. The Department's agencies do not break down data for travel claims.

Consultants (Suspension)

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions have taken place between her Department and the Southampton University Hospitals Trust regarding the suspension of consultants on full pay. [32336]

Mr. Malone: None. Suspension is a matter between employer and employee.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance she has given to hospital trusts on the procedures and time to be taken for the reinstatement of consultants suspended on full pay following the completion of successful appeals against suspension for alleged medical malpractice or misconduct; [32339]

(2) what guidance she has given to hospital trusts on the minimum time which should be taken to complete inquiries in cases where consultants are suspended for alleged medical malpractice or misconduct. [32337]

Mr. Malone: Guidance on suspension procedures was issued in circular HSG(94)49 to national health service trusts on 31 October 1994, copies of which are available in the Library.

The guidance stipulates no minimum period during which inquiries are to be completed. While decisions on the procedures to be followed for reinstatement rest with the employing authority, the guidance contains an indicative timetable which is strongly recommended to NHS employers for incorporation into any local procedures that they may draw up in consultation with their staff. The guidelines state that every attempt should be made to conclude the investigation and, where appropriate, the subsequent disciplinary process as speedily as possible.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the total cost of salaries paid to consultants suspended on full pay in each of the past five years. [32338]

Mr. Malone: None.

Asthma

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the cost in real terms to the NHS of the prescriptions for drugs to alleviate the symptoms of asthma in the year since 1990–91. [32216]

Mr. Malone: The available information is shown in the table.

The net ingredient cost in actual and real terms of drugs used in the treatment of asthma, 1991–92, 1992–93 and 1993–94

England

Period	*Net ingredient cost (£ millions)*	*Net ingredient cost at 1991–92 prices using the GDP deflator (£ millions)*
1991–92	270.6	270.6
1992–93	312.5	300.5
1993–94	357.6	333.7

1. Drugs as defined by the British National Formulary section 3.1 (bronchodilators), 3.2 (corticosteroids) and 3.3 (cromoglycate and related therapy). Some of these drugs may have been prescribed for conditions other than asthma.
2. The information was obtained from the prescription cost analysis system which is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in England by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered. It excludes items dispensed by hospital pharmacies.
3. The net ingredient cost refers to the cost of the drug before discounts and does not include any dispensing costs or fees.
4. The Treasury GDP deflator has been used.
5. Statistically comparative data for 1990–91 are not held. Data for 1994–95 are not yet available.

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Lord President of the Council if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance.

Mr. Newton: The amounts claimed in the Privy Council Office, at current prices, were as follows:

	(a) 1993–94 £	*(b) 1994–95* £
(i) Public transport	824	1,156
(ii) Car mileage	nil	[1]1,104
(iii) Bicycle	nil	nil

[1] Reflects claims arising from staff using cars during industrial action on the railways.

These figures include claims by the staff of the central drugs co-ordination unit, created within the Privy Council Office in January 1994.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Albania

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what has been the help given from the United Kingdom know-how fund to Albania: in each of the last three years. [31368]

Mr. Baldry: The know-how fund has financed projects in the following sectors in Albania; agriculture, finance, health, local government, education and the fire service. New activities this year include assistance to the mass privatisation programme and to small and medium-sized enterprises. Expenditure has been:

1992–93: £38,000

1993–94: £360,000

1994–95: £720,000

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31310]

Mr. Baldry: The ODA allocated £158,449,755 to 220 UK non-governmental organisations in 1993–94. The figures for 1994–95 are not yet available.

Development Co-operation Policy

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will set out the existing disparities between the European Community's development co-operation policy *(a)* in general and *(b)* in respect of evaluation of projects and programmes and those of the United Kingdom; and whether the working group has published comparisons between policies and priorities of all member states and those of the community. [31596]

Mr. Baldry: The aims for Community development cooperation set out in the Maastricht treaty are consistent with those of the UK.

Since Maastricht, further measures have been taken to enhance policy and operational coordination between the EC and member states. Joint guidelines have been agreed for a number of sectors—family planning, health, AIDS, education, food security—and a pilot exercise launched in selected countries to enhance operational coordination

The evaluation methodology employed by the European Commission addresses the same issues as the UK's. The main difference is the greater emphasis in UK evaluation studies on examining the cost-effectiveness and on rating the success of projects and the programmes. For further details on this issue I refer the hon. Member to the Foreign Affairs Committee's First Report Session 1994–95 on Monitoring of the European Community Aid Programme and the Government's response to this, Cm2870.

No comprehensive comparison of Community and all member state development cooperation policies has been published. However the policies of all member states who are members of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD are regularly reviewed by that committee.

China

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department intends to contribute to the fund established by the makers of the film "The Dying Rooms" for the support of children abandoned in Chinese state orphanages. [32017]

Mr. Baldry: We have made no contribution to this fund.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on implications of the recent information obtained on the treatment of abandoned children in China for his Department's funding of the IPPF and UNIFA. [32080]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* The United Nations Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation will be asked about the implications of recent information obtained on the treatment of abandoned children in China.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will undertake research into the links between Chinese population control policy and the situation of abandoned children in China; [32081]

(2) if he will make an assessment of the links between the Chinese population control policy and the imbalance of the sexes in China. [32082]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answers 3 July 1995]:* We shall continue to seek information on China's population policies and the consequences of their implementation.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the use of repeated visits by population control officials and volunteers to Chinese women with illegal pregnancies or separation of them from their families to exert psychological pressure on them to accept abortion. [32083]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* We continue to receive reports alleging abuses of reproductive rights in China.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what information he has regarding the Chinese Family Planning Association and IPPF involvement in house visits and family planning courses in China; [32084]

(2) what information he has regarding UNFPA involvement in funding, training for or participation in house visits and family planning courses in China. [32085]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answers 3 July 1995]:* We understand from the International Planned Parenthood Federation that members of the China Family Planning Association do make home visits. These visits are designed to inform people of the choices of family planning methods available and provide information on how they can better access reproductive health care services. The CFPA also undertakes training courses to

enable people to make informed choices about childbearing. The IPPF has provided vehicles and audio-visual equipment to the CFPA.

The United Nations Population Fund does not fund or provide training for home visits. Its training programmes focus on contraceptive choice, interpersonal counselling and informed consent.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what changes have occurred in *(a)* domestic investments, *(b)* foreign investments, *(c)* exports, *(d)* imports, *(e)* child mortality, *(f)* participation in education, *(g)* interest rates and *(h)* wage levels since the introduction of the Zimbabwe structural adjustment programme; and if he will make a statement on the United Kingdom's policy towards the next structural adjustment programme. [31846]

Mr. Baldry: We shall continue to support Zimbabwe's economic reform programme as an essential means to economic recovery, providing good progress is maintained. In concert with the World bank and International Monetary Fund we recognise the importance of helping to protect vulnerable groups during this transition; we therefore give priority to protecting the social sectors in our aid programme.

The latest available figures from World Bank/IMF sources are as follows:

	Year	*Year*	*Year*
	1991	*1994 (estimate)*	
	US$ million	*US$ million*	
Exports	1,786	1,870	
Imports	1,700	1,630	
	1991	*1994*	
	Percentage GDP	*Percentage GDP*	
Gross domestic investment	25	23	
of which private sector	20	18	
	1991	*1994*	
	US$ million	*US$ million*	
Foreign investment (approvals by Zimbabwe investment centre)	250	660	
	1990	*1991*	*1995*
Interest rate (90-day money market rate)	15 per cent.	35 per cent.	32 per cent.
	1989	*1992*	
	Z$	*Z$*	
Wages (average annual earnings)			
average excluding agriculture	6,700	11,107	
agriculture	1,809	2,063	
	1980–85	*1989–92*	
Education—gross enrolment ration[1] (Percentage of school age population)			
Primary	135	117	
Secondary	42	48	
	1980–85	*1987–92*	
Child mortality (per 1,000 live births)	80	47	

[1] Includes those attending above the relevant school age.

European Development Fund

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much in £ sterling terms Britain will contribute to the eighth European development fund; over which financial years those contributions will be made; and what will be Britain's percentage share of the total contributions made to the European development fund. [32612]

Mr. Baldry: Our commitment to the eighth European development fund will be for 1.63 becu, equivalent to approximately £1.36 billion at current exchange rates. Funds will be drawn down over the period 1999–2000 to 2003–4. We shall be the third largest contributor to EDF VIII, providing 12.7 per cent. of member state contributions.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much in £ sterling terms Britain will contribute to the seventh European development fund; over which financial years those contributions will be made; and what Britain's percentage share will be of the total contributions made to the European development fund. [32611]

Mr. Baldry: Our commitment to the seventh European development fund is for 1.79 becu. The cost in sterling terms will depend on the timing of draw down. At the present exchange rate it is equivalent to approximately £1.5 billion. Funds will be drawn down over the period 1994–95 to 1998–99. We are the third largest contributor to EDF VII, providing 16.37 per cent. of member state contributions.

Indonesia

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 19 June, *Official Report*, column *16*, regarding the national overview of land resources in Indonesia, if any

of the project staff trained under the project were *(a)* stationed in East Timor or *(b)* responsible for reviewing the land resources and land use of East Timor. [31876]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* The Indonesian project staff were attached to the department of transmigration in Jakarta. None were stationed in East Timor. Project staff, working with the UK consultants, reviewed the land resources and land use of the whole archipelago, including East Timor.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 19 June, *Official Report*, columns *16–17*, regarding the regional physical planning, map improvement and training project in Indonesia, if the project covered East Timor; and if officials who attended the training *(a)* in Indonesia and *(b)* in the United Kingdom included officials employed by the authorities in East Timor. [31877]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* The project included East Timor and local training courses were carried out for officials from Government Departments there. Officials employed by Government Departments in East Timor were not among the people trained in the UK.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Attorney-General if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32169]

The Attorney-General: The amount of travel claims made by staff in my Departments in 1994–95 prices is given in the table.

	Public transport[1]		*Car mileage allowance*[2]		*Bicycle allowance*[3]	
	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £	*1993–94* £	*1994–95* £	*1993–94* £	*1994–95* £
Crown Prosecution Service	930,295	1,031,401	2,033,162	2,090,518	—	—
Treasury Solicitor's Department	23,177	22,719	—	5,441	0	0
Government Property Lawyers	37,075	41,138	6,742	3,033	0	0
Serious Fraud Office[4]	216,356	259,150	—	—	0	0
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers	39,434	19,576	—	540	0	0

[1] All qualifying forms of transport other than private vehicles.
[2] Payment for 1993–94 in TSD and LSLO, and for 1993–94 and 1994–95 in SFO, included in "public transport" figures.
[3] Any payments in the CPS included in "public transport" figures.
[4] 1994–95 amount provisional.

TREASURY

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32178]

Mr. Nelson: The information requested at constant 1993–94 prices is as follows:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
Public transport	868,988	723,320
Car mileage allowance and bicycle allowance[1]	61	56,662
Total	49	788,982

[1] Records of bicycle allowance payments are not maintained separately.

Central Gilts Office

Mr. French: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to his answer of 18 April, *Official Report*, column *37*, if he will review the custody controls in relation to the Central Gilts Office accounts in order to reduce the risk of misappropriation or misdescription of gilt edge securities registered at the Bank of England. [31524]

Mr. Nelson: HM Government have no plans to ask the Bank of England to review its controls in relation to Central Gilts Office accounts. Placing the Bank under the duty of inquiring about the propriety of stock transactions would reduce the speed and efficiency of the settlement service and would therefore add to the costs of government funding. I remain of the view that the measures taken in the Pensions Bill provide effective safeguards for the security of scheme assets.

Inland Revenue (Software)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the cost to the Inland Revenue of paying for software on which licensing agreements cannot be traced; and if he will make a statement. [31647]

Sir George Young: The Inland Revenue identified a small number of cases of equipment, due to be transferred to EDS, where there was insufficient documentary evidence to confirm that copies of software held have been fully licensed. The Department has agreed with the supplier a fee of less than £150,000, including VAT, to cover licenses for this software.

To prevent recurrence improved procedures have been implemented in line with the requirement of the Inland Revenue IT security standards.

Barlow Clowes

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to his answer of 20 June, *Official Report*,

column *147–48*, if the liability of the companies named in the answer has now ceased; how much money has been recovered to offset the total cost to the Treasury; and what companies remain to pursue; and if he will make a statement. [31728]

Mr. Nelson: A substantial sum, including interest and costs was recovered in settlement of these proceedings to help offset the total cost of the ex gratia payment scheme, and consequently these actions have now been discontinued.

A number of other companies and individuals remain parties to other proceedings commenced by the Government. It is not the Government's policy to comment on the detail of legal proceedings or settlements relating to the Barlow Clowes litigation, so as not to prejudice the outcome of continuing actions.

Personal Pensions

Mr. Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he now expects to publish the SIB/DSS report on the sale of appropriate personal pensions to those on low incomes; [32049]

(2) if he will publish the terms of reference of the SIB/DSS inquiry into the sale of appropriate personal pensions to those on low incomes. [32050]

Mr. Nelson: The publication of this report is a matter for the Securities and Investments Board.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Members' Staff

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chairman of the Administration Committee (1) if he will make a statement on the reasons why hon. Members are currently restricted to three employee passes;

(2) if he will issue a questionnaire to hon. Members to ascertain their views on the adequacy of three passes to allow employees access to their offices in order to carry out their duties;

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that passes are issued only to legitimate employees of hon. Members;

(4) what proposals he has to ensure that hon. Members who wish to employ more than three people to assist them to fulfil all their parliamentary duties may do so and not be prevented by current restrictions on the number of passes;

(5) if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that hon. Members can employ the numbers of properly employed staff that they consider appropriate.

Mr. Michael J. Martin: On 30 January 1989 the House approved the Second Report of Session 1987–88 from the then Select Committee on House of Commons (Services), "Access to the Precincts of the House", which recommended that the number of Members' staff who may hold photo-passes be limited to three. It was not proposed that there should be a limit on the number of staff employed by an hon. Member.

The decision to limit to three the number of photo-passes available to Members' staff was made in the light of pressure on all the House facilities; at that time, the figures showed that only 66 out of 650 Members held passes for more than the proposed limit.

As the pressure on House facilities has not decreased in subsequent years, I do not propose to recommend any changes to the existing regulations.

Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Chairman of the Accommodation and Works Committee what is his policy on the use of combined heat and power in the House of Commons.

Mr. Ray Powell: Wherever appropriate, the opportunity is always taken to incorporate energy efficiency measures into new works and maintenance projects on the parliamentary estate. A combined heat and power plant will be installed in the Norman Shaw buildings later this year at a cost of some £90,000. Projected annual savings worth £18,500 will give a payback period of less than five years. Studies are under way with a view to undertaking a similar scheme in the Palace of Westminster in 1997–98.

TRANSPORT

Chairmen of British Rail and Railtrack

Sir Ivan Lawrence: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what objectives he has set for the chairmen of British Rail and Railtrack for 1995–96. [32849]

Dr. Mawhinney: I have written to the chairmen, separately, setting their objectives. Copies of the letters have been placed in the Library.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32177]

Mr. Norris: This question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Euro-freight Terminal

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has had in relation to the impact of the privatisation proposals for British Rail freight division on the decision-making timetable for a Euro-freight terminal in south Wales. [32394]

Mr. Watts: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales is in regular contact concerning proposals for rail freight terminals in south Wales.

Bull Bars

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which police forces *(a)* took part and *(b)* did not take part in the survey on injury accidents involving vehicles fitted with bull bars; and what is the total population that each group covers. [32396]

Mr. Norris: The police forces which have taken part in the study are as follows:

Avon and Somerset
Cambridgeshire
Cumbria
Cheshire
Derbyshire
Essex
Greater Manchester
Hampshire
Hertfordshire
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
Norfolk
North Yorkshire
Nottinghamshire
Northamptonshire
South Yorkshire
Staffordshire
Suffolk
Surrey
Sussex
West Midlands
West Mercia
Wiltshire
South Wales
Central
Fife
Grampian
Northern
Strathclyde
Tayside

The total population covered by those forces is approximately 29 million.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is his estimate of the total number of deaths and serious injuries involving bull bars in 1994, based on the evidence provided by certain police authorities. [32397]

Mr. Norris: The figures for accidents involving bull bars during 1994, based on the injury accident reports forms compiled by certain police authorities are as follows:

Personal Injury Road Accidents: 1994

	All Police Forces in Great Britain	*All Police Forces Reporting Bull Bar Accidents*		
Accident distribution	*All accidents*	*All accidents*	*All accidents involving a vehicle fitted with a bull bar*	*All pedestrian accidents involving a vehicle fitted with a bull bar*
Fatal	3,326	1,936	22	6
Serious	39,286	21,551	219	34
Slight	191,489	97,180	815	49
All accidents	234,101	120,667	1,056	89

(Table revised 3/7/95 to include Hertfordshire).

Vehicle Emissions

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that heavy goods vehicles entering the United Kingdom from the European mainland meet the necessary safety of noxious emissions standards. [32443]

Mr. Norris: All vehicles, whether of UK or external origin, are the subject of roadside spot checks to ensure that they comply with emissions requirements. From 1 January 1996, in-service emissions requirements for heavy diesel engined vehicles in all member states will have to comply with the minimum standards laid down in directive 92/55/EEC. An increasing number of vehicles

from member states are now being built to the more stringent requirements of directive 91/542/EEC, which came into effect on 1 October 1993.

Highway Code Booklet

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many revisions have been made to the highway code booklet since 1965; and in which years. [32273]

Mr. Norris: The highway code has undergone four major revisions since 1965: in 1969, 1978, 1987 and 1993. Minor amendments have also been made from time to time throughout this period.

Network SouthCentral

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what claims have been made against Railtrack by Network SouthCentral in respect of damage to train sets and loss of passenger revenue in April and May as a result of the failure to maintain the track properly. [31867]

Mr. Watts: A claim has been received and is being considered by Railtrack.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to Network SouthCentral in April and May of the additional wear to wheels and loss of passenger revenue as a result of the failure to maintain the track properly. [31865]

Mr. Watts: None. This is a commercial matter for the railway industry.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train services in the Network SouthCentral region were delayed by more than five minutes in April and May as a result of the failure to maintain the track properly. [31866]

Mr. Watts: British Rail's performance statistics do not specify reasons for delays. However, I understand from BR that recent track maintenance problems had no noticeable effects on the punctuality of Network SouthCentral services during April and May.

Chief Executive Pay

Ms. Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list from the date of each agency's creation, by agency, the annual salary including performance pay and bonus payments of the chief executive. [31827]

Mr. Norris: There are eight agencies in the Department of Transport as follows:

Vehicle Inspectorate Executive Agency

Mr. R. J. Oliver was appointed chief executive on creation of the agency on 1 August 1988 and was reappointed in 1991 and 1994. His salary on appointment was £30,644. Subsequent salary changes were:

	Salary £
1 October 1988	32,784
6 January 1989	33,819
1 April 1989	35,415
1 August 1989	38,254
1 October 1989	39,746
1 August 1990	43,307
1 October 1990	44,996
1 August 1991	47,921
1 August 1992	49,790
1 August 1993	52,286
1 August 1994	54,815

For the period 1 August 1988 to 31 March 1991, Mr. Oliver received a non-consolidated performance bonus of £5,000. For the year 1 March 1991 to 31 March 1992 he received a £2,400 bonus; for 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1993 a £2,400 bonus and for 1 April 1993 to 31 March 1994 a £2,800 bonus.

Vehicle Certification Agency

Mr. D. W. Harvey became chief executive on creation of the agency on 2 April 1990 and was reappointed in 1993 and 1994. His salary on appointment was £33,991. This was subsequently changed as follows:

	Salary £
1 August 1990	36,997
1 August 1991	39,402
1 April 1992	41,120
1 August 1992	42,724
1 August 1993	43,836
1 August 1994	45,789

For the year 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1993. Mr. Harvey received a non-consolidated performance bonus of £2,600. For the year 1 April 1993 to 31 March 1994 he received a bonus of £2,450.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Mr. S. R. Curtis was chief executive from 2 April 1990—on its creation—to 2 January 1995. His salary on appointment was £43,350. Subsequent changes have been as follows:

	Salary £
1 January 1991	43,800
1 April 1991	47,090
1 December 1991	48,00
1 April 1992	49,920
1 April 1993	51,360
1 April 1994	54,118
1 April 1995	55,471

For the year 2 April 1990 to 31 March 1991, Mr. Curtis received a non-consolidated performance bonus of £750. For the year 1 April 1991 to 31 March 1992, he received a bonus of £2,250; for 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1993 a bonus of £5,782 and for 1 April 1993 to 31 March 1994 a bonus of £6,762.

Dr. S. J. Ford was appointed chief executive on 3 January 1995 at a salary of £52,704 which was increased to £55,000 on 1 April 1995.

Transport Research Laboratory

Mr. H. J. Wootton was appointed chief executive on creation of the agency on 1 April 1992—ACE designate

from 11 November 1991—at a salary of £65,520. Subsequent changes are as follows:

	Salary £
1 April 1993	66,503
1 April 1994	68,332
1 April 1995	70,040

For the part year 11 November 1991 to 31 March 1992, Mr. Wooton received a non-consolidated bonus of £3,150; for 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1993 a bonus of £5,897; for 1 April 1993 to 31 March 1994 a bonus of £6,650.

Driving Standards Agency

Dr. C. M. Woodman was chief executive of DSA from its creation on 2 April 1990 to 31 August 1993. His salary on appointment was £36,818. Subsequent changes were:

	£
1 August 1990	40,116
1 August 1991	42,724
1 August 1992	45,256
1 August 1993	46,924

For the year 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1993, Dr. Woodman received a non-consolidated bonus of £1,250.

Dr. S. J. Ford, grade 5, was chief executive from 1 September 1993 to 2 January 1995. His initial salary was £47,900. This increased to £48,858 on 1 August 1994. For the year 1 September 1993 to 31 March 1994, he received a non-consolidated bonus of £2,934.

On 1 April 1995 Mr. B. L. Herdan, grade 5, was appointed chief executive on a salary of £58,000.

Highways Agency

Mr. L. J. Haynes was appointed chief executive on 1 April 1994 at a salary of £100,000. On 1 April 1995 his salary was increased to £102,500.

The Coastguard Agency

Mr. C. J. Harris, grade 4 was appointed chief executive on 1 April 1994 at a salary of £47,994. On 1 August 1994, his salary was increased to £50,268. This increase was performance related. He received no other payments.

Marine Safety Agency

Mr. R. M. Bradley, grade 4 was appointed chief executive on 1 April 1994—he was ACE designate from 14 December 1992—at a salary of £45,675. On 1 August 1994, his salary was increased to £46,588.

Driving Tests

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the number of non-UK nationals undertaking the driving test in the United Kingdom over the last two years. [31833]

Mr. Norris: This information is not available.

Roll-on Roll-off Ferries

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has carried out the levels of water that can be contained on the decks of roll-on roll-off ferries without hindering the use of the lifeboats; and at what levels of water the use of lifeboats is impeded. [31437]

Mr. Norris *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* This is an operational matter for the Marine Safety Agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Susan J. Rooke to Mr. Paul Flynn, dated 4 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Transport has asked me to reply to your Question about research into roll-on roll-off passenger ferries' survivability and evacuation.

Substantial research into the effect of water on the car deck on the stability of roll-on roll-off passenger ships, and their evacuation, has been conducted in the UK since the HERALD OF FREE ENTERPRISE and ESTONIA disasters. The International Maritime Organisation's Panel of Experts took account of this research in its study of ferry safety, and it has made proposals which would reduce the risk of rapid capsize. The Government supports these proposals, and we will continue to press for their adoption.

Night Flights

Mr. Tyler: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether restrictions relating to night flights to and from *(a)* civil airports, *(b)* private airstrips, *(c)* military airfields and *(d)* heliports apply to police helicopters. [32395]

Mr. Norris: My right hon. Friend is responsible for certain noise mitigation measures, which include night flying restrictions, at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports only. At these airports, police helicopters are exempt from current restrictions on night movements. At all other airports, including heliports and private airstrips, the responsibility for noise mitigation lies with individual owners or operators. Restrictions on night flights may form part of any planning approval. These arrangements apply to civilian aerodromes; at military airfields the responsibility lies with the Ministry of Defence.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

United Arab Emirates

Sir David Steel: to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the current negotiations between the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates on a memorandum of understanding; and what assessment he has made of the effect on these of the imposition of an entry visa requirement upon United Arab Emirate citizens seeking to visit the United Kingdom. [32201]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: Negotiations between the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates on a memorandum of understanding are making good progress. There is no connection with the EU Commission's proposal for a list of third countries, including the UAE, whose nationals would require a visa to enter any EU state.

Sir David Steel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations

he has received from Britons resident in the United Arab Emirates about the possible termination by the United Kingdom of the agreement of the waiving of visa requirements for entry to the United Kingdom by nationals of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar; and if he will make a statement on the effect such termination will have on relations between the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates. [32206]

Mr Baldry: The chairman of the British Business Group Dubai and Northern Emirates wrote to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on 17 June about press reports regarding possible EU regulations affecting UAE nationals visiting Britain.

Under article 100c of the treaty of Rome, the European Commission proposed in December 1993 a draft regulation establishing a list of 126 countries, including the UAE, Bahrain and Qatar, whose nationals would require a visa to enter any EU member state. The United Kingdom has registered its concern at the length of the proposed list. Discussions with the other member states and the Commission are continuing; the United Kingdom's aim is to ensure that the list takes account of current UK visa practice as far as possible.

We have close and excellent relationships with the UAE. We do not anticipate that these would be unduly affected, should the UAE be placed on an EU common visa list.

Sir David Steel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens are known to be living in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar. [32204]

Mr. Baldry: The estimated numbers of British citizens living in the countries in question are as follows:

United Arab Emirates: 18,500

Bahrain: 6,330

Qatar: 3,500

Sir David Steel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what considerations make it impossible to continue into 1996 the reciprocal agreement between the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar on abolition of entry visa requirements. [32205]

Mr. Baldry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given earlier.

Iran

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who represented the European Union at the recent trial of the alleged killers of the Reverend Tateos Michaelian and the Reverend Medi Dibaj in Iran; what were their observations on the proceedings; and when the trial is scheduled to continue. [32059]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: The French Presidency represented the European Union at the second session of the trial on 18 June. The proceedings remain at an early stage and it would not therefore be appropriate to disclose the Presidency's observations. The trial has been adjourned *sine die*.

Sudan

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action Her Majesty's Government are taking to put pressure on the Government of Sudan to stop human rights violations and to come to a peaceful settlement of the civil war. [32060]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: We regularly press the Sudanese Government to improve their human rights record and persevere with the peace initiative launched last year by the Inter-Governmental Authority for Drought and Development. I raised both issues in a meeting with the Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on 22 May.

Former Yugoslavia

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the United States Government on arrangements for the possible withdrawal of UN forces from the former Yugoslavia. [32035]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: We have had regular discussions both bilaterally and in NATO with the United States Government on this subject. We and Washington agree that UNPROFOR should remain in Bosnia as long as it can continue to perform a useful task at an acceptable level of risk, but that it is sensible to have contingency plans in place for a possible withdrawal.

European Union (Perception of UK)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts as to the perception of the United Kingdom by other EU countries. [32034]

Mr. David Davis: I meet my European Union counterparts on a regular basis. They recognise Britain's determination to work for an open, competitive European Union which is sensitive to the concerns of its member states.

Drugs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action he is taking with the drug-producing countries to enable their farmers to switch production to other produce. [32036]

Mr. Baldry: Government support for alternative development and crop substitution projects is channelled via the United Nations drugs control programme to which the UK is currently the second biggest donor. Since 1985 the ODA has committed £7 million to promote crop substitution in the opium-growing areas of the Dir valley in Pakistan and since 1988 £4.5 million to a water and sanitation project in the Chapare in Bolivia, an important area for coca cultivation. Both projects are administered by UNDCP. We have recently contributed £100,000 to enable UNDCP to prepare a strategy to reduce illicit poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. In addition, as I

explained in my reply on 8 February 1995, to the hon. Member for Carrick, (Mr. Foulkes) *Official Report*, columns *278–79*, ODA has carried out research into alternative crops in Peru and north Morocco and has funded desk studies covering the main coca growing areas of Asia.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32167]

Mr. Goodlad: The FCO—diplomatic wing and ODA—processed more than 20,000 travel and subsistence claims in each of the financial years 1993–94 and 1994–95. These do not include claims processed by posts abroad. Information on total payments broken down by public transport, car mileage allowance and bicycle allowances is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Former Foreign Heads of State

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what countries have lodged protests or made representations to Her Majesty's Government regarding the presence in this country of their former heads of state. [32520]

Mr. Baldry: None.

Mr. Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many former heads of state of foreign countries are in receipt of payments of any kind from United Kingdom public funds. [32522]

Mr. Baldry: None.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what performance targets he has set for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate in 1995–96, and, if he will make a statement. [32853]

Mr. Waldegrave: The chief executive of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate has submitted his proposals to me and I have agreed that the VMD should be set the following performance targets for 1995–96.

full cost recovery for the three business activities of licensing, policy work and residues monitoring;

77 per cent. of new applications for marketing authorisations to be issued within 120 clock days; 95 per cent. within 200 days;

an overall efficiency gain of 2 per cent.

These are challenging targets which will build on the improvements already made in the efficiency and quality of service provided by the directorate since its establishment as a next steps agency, and for which I commend the chief executive and his staff. In addition, I have agreed the VMD's corporate plan for 1995–96 to 1997–98, and copies are being placed in the Library of the House and the Public Information Office.

Sheep Dip

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he has completed his consideration of the advice he has received from the Veterinary Products Committee on the report from the Institute of Occupational Health into possible chronic neuropsychological effects of occupational exposure to organophosphate sheep dips; and if he will make a statement. [32854]

Mr. Waldegrave: Yes. In the light of the assessment of the Institute of Occupational Health report by its Medical and Scientific Panel, the chairman of the Veterinary Products Committee, Professor Sir James Armour, has advised me that whilst the report contributed to the body of information now available, and its publication was to be welcomed, it was not in itself a definitive study. The committee found that the study did not provide sufficient scientific evidence to support the hypothesis that chronic health effects are associated with long-term, low level exposure to OP sheep dips. The conclusions reached by the IOH in the associated article in the *Lancet* did not appear to be adequately supported by the data in the full report. The committee therefore reaffirmed its previous advice that, on the basis of current scientific evidence, the marketing of OP dips should continue.

Among other recommendations, the committee urged that the award of contracts for the epidemiological research be pursued as a matter of urgency, and the need for farmers to follow the guidance in the "Sheep dipping" booklet was re-emphasised. A copy of the chairman's letter, and the full findings and advice of the committee are being placed in the Library of the House.

Having consulted the other Agriculture and Health Ministers who form the licensing authority, I can confirm that the Government has accepted the VPC's advice in full. In doing so, we are mindful of the continuing reports of outbreaks of sheep scab, and the importance of OP dips to animal welfare. Nevertheless, it is essential that users consider what treatment is best, take the steps necessary under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations to assess the risks and decide what precautions are needed in the use of OP dips, and recognise the importance of following the available guidance and instructions on the label to ensure safe use of the product. This is just as important for non OP dips, where the same precautions are recommended as for OP dips.

We also welcome the IOH report as providing a valuable contribution to the continuing debate on the possible long term effects of exposure to organophosphates. It forms a basis for the further epidemiological research for which we are currently assessing proposals. Following the recent advertisement we have received a total of 12 proposals, and these are being urgently considered. I hope to make a further announcement about progress with this before the end of the month.

Electro-ejaculation

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what is his estimate of the number

of rams who are electro-stimulated each year to obtain semen; and what is the limit on the number of times each ram can receive these electrical charges in a given period. [31125]

Mrs. Browning: Electro-ejaculation of rams is used only rarely and may be carried out only by a veterinary surgeon. The technique is used for diagnostic or research purposes—for example, to diagnose infertility or for the assessment of fertility prior to the breeding season. It is not used for the routine collection of semen.

Slaughterhouses

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1) how many slaughterhouses have failed to reach the required standards of hygiene and animal welfare in the last year. [31129]

(2) how many slaughterhouses have been closed down on hygiene and welfare grounds in the last year. [31130]

Mrs. Browning: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 13 June 1995 to the hon. Member for Hampstead and Highgate (Ms Jackson) *Official Report*, column *512*.

Dr. Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what checks are made on the standards of hygiene and animal welfare in slaughterhouses abroad to which animals are sent; and how many slaughterhouses have been closed following such checks in the last year. [31131]

Mrs. Browning: The European Commission carries out inspections of slaughterhouses in member states primarily to check on hygiene standards. Inspections are not confined to slaughterhouses to which British animals are sent. Reports are not published but, following the visits, the inspectors notify the central authorities in the country concerned of any deficiencies found. Those authorities are responsible for ensuring that the necessary corrective action is taken.

EC Directive 93/119/EC, on the protection of animals at slaughter, which came into force on 1 January 1995, makes provision for the Commission inspectors to check establishments to ensure uniform application of the welfare standards laid down. The Government look to the Commission to monitor the enforcement of all Community farm animal welfare legislation. In addition we follow up with the Commission and other member states, as appropriate, specific allegations of breaches of Community welfare directives.

Sheep

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what is his estimate for the proportion of ewes in the national flock that produce *(a)* single lambs, *(b)* twin lambs, *(c)* triplet lambs, *(d)* quadruplets or *(e)* larger numbers. [31127]

Mrs. Browning: ADAS has estimated that 85–90 per cent. of litters consist of single or twin lambs. Triplet lambs in the lowland flock account for an estimated 10 per cent. of births and 1 per cent. in the hill flock. Larger litter sizes are extremely rare, accounting for less than 1 per cent. of births.

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many sheep carcasses were rejected for human consumption at the time of slaughter for reasons of disease or damage caused by bruising or injection site injuries in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of sheep offal and other parts of sheep carcasses were similarly rejected. [31124]

Mrs. Browning: Until the establishment of the meat hygiene service on 1 April 1995, meat inspection was the responsibility of local authorities. The information requested is not available centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what is his estimate for the proportion of the annual lamb crop born before 1 March. [31126]

Mrs. Browning: ADAS has estimated that 10–15 per cent. of the total national flock lamb before 1 March.

Hormones

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many anti-hormone units his Ministry has set up to detect excessive hormones in *(a)* beef, *(b)* sheep and *(c)* other livestock production; and if he will make a statement. [31212]

Mrs Browning: Surveillance for the use of hormonal growth promoters is carried out under the statutory national surveillance scheme for residues in meat. During 1994, 3,941 samples were taken from cattle, 357 from sheep and 390 from other livestock and tested for the presence of hormones. For the third consecutive year, no evidence was found of the use of stilbenes or thyrostatic substances, which are banned under Community legislation. Eleven samples of cattle serum taken on farm were found to have elevated levels of the natural hormone testosterone present, but subsequent investigation established that no illegal use had taken place.

The results of sampling carried out under the national surveillance scheme and other non-statutory surveillance programmes for veterinary residues are published quarterly in the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, VMD, MAVIS newsletter and summarised in the VMD, annual report and accounts. Copies of both publications are available in the Library of the House.

Infant formula (Labelling)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans he has to enforce labelling relating to gastroenteritis rates on infant formula feeds [31292]

Mrs. Browning: There is no requirement in the Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula Regulations 1995, or in EC Directives 91/321 or 95/52 which these implement, on labelling relating to gastroenteritis rates on infant formula feeds. There are no plans to introduce one.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what is the expected date of publication of draft regulations further to directives 91/321/EEC and 92/52/EEC relating to infant formula feeds. [31294]

Mrs. Browning: The Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula Regulations 1995 (S.I.1995 No.77), implementing Directives 91/321/EEC and 92/52/EEC, were published in February 1995 and came into force on 1 March 1995. A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how much his Department has spent on research into bovine tuberculosis in each of the last five years. [31743]

Mrs. Browning: The amount spent on research into bovine tuberculosis in the current financial year and in each of the last four years is set out in the following table:

1991–92: £1,076,000

1992–93: £922,200

1993–94: £1,071,544

1994–95: £1,288,642

1995–96: £1,467,368

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many individual reactors to the cattle tuberculosis skin test in each English county or region have been slaughtered in each of the last five years; and how many of those had visible lesions post mortem. [31739]

Mrs. Browning: The number of confirmed reactors to the cattle tuberculosis skin test in each English county which have been slaughtered in each of the last five years are given in the table. The figures in brackets give the number of reactors slaughtered which had visible lesions at post mortem.

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Northern region					
Cumbria	62(61)	2(2)	12(8)	1(1)	—
Durnham/Tyne and Wear/Clevedon/ Northumberland	2(2)	—	3(2)	1(1)	7(7)
North Yorkshire	—	1(1)	4(0)	—	—
Humberside	—	—	1(1)	—	—
Midlands and west					
Cheshire	2(2)	—	—	—	1(1)
Nott and Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	1(1)
Hereford and Worcester	1(0)	—	2(2)	12(10)	83(68)
Lancashire	2(1)	—	2(1)	1(0)	1(0)
Leicester	—	—	2(0)	1(0)	1(1)
West Midlands	—	—	3(2)	2(0)	—
South west					
Cornwall	92(90)	137(129)	126(119)	277(261)	351(348)
Devon	62(58)	42(26)	100(99)	99(89)	189(167)
Glos and Avon	62(52)	57(48)	120(106)	175(161)	214(188)
Dorset	4(3)	12(12)	5(5)	21(19)	19(13)
Somerset	—	—	—	65(57)	15(13)
Wilts	4(3)	45(41)	60(59)	89(83)	60(59)
South east					
Oxford	1(0)	—	—	3(2)	2(1)
Hants/IOW	—	2(1)	—	—	—
Kent	14(11)	6(6)	2(2)	—	3(3)
Eastern					
Lincoln	—	—	—	1(0)	—
Huntingdon	—	—	—	—	—

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, of what alternative methods to the present skin test for identifying tuberculosis in cattle his Department is aware. [31741]

Mrs. Browning: The Department is involved in work in the central veterinary laboratory and also monitors work elsewhere on the development and assessment of alternative forms of testing for tuberculosis in cattle. None of the alternative serological test being explored, including the gamma interferon test recently trialled in Northern Ireland, is yet sufficiently developed to provide a realistic alternative to the intradermal skin test. However, the Department is currently evaluating the potential use of these tests in conjunction with the interdermal skin test in the field.

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many herds in each English county or region have tested positively for tuberculosis in each of the last five years. [31737]

Mrs. Browning: The information is not available in the form requested. However, the number of herds in which cattle tested positive for bovine tuberculosis in each of the Department's administrative areas in each of the last five years were:

	Year(s) in which cases occurred	*Number of herds*
Berkshire/Buckinghamshire/Oxon	1990	1
	1993	2
	1994	2
Cheshire	1990	1
	1994	1
Cornwall	1990	38
	1991	51
	1992	49
	1993	82
	1994	106
Cumbria	1990	9
	1991	1
	1992	3
	1993	1
Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire	1994	1
Devon	1990	26
	1991	12
	1992	20
	1993	46
	1994	75
Dorset	1990	4
	1991	4
	1992	3
	1993	8
	1994	2

	Year(s) in which cases occurred	Number of herds
Durham/Tyne and Weir/Cleveland/Northumbria	1990	2
	1992	2
	1993	1
	1994	2
Gloucestershire and Avon	1990	34
	1991	17
	1992	37
	1993	64
	1994	63
Hampshire	1991	1
Hereford/Worcester	1992	1
	1993	4
	1994	12
Humberside	1992	1
Kent and East Sussex	1990	8
	1991	3
	1994	1
Lancashire/Merseyside	1990	1
	1992	1
	1993	1
	1994	1
Leicestershire	1992	2
	1993	1
	1994	1
Lincolnshire	1993	1
Northamptonshire	1990	1
Somerset	1993	14
	1994	7
Sussex West	1991	1
Warwickshire and West Midlands	1992	2
	1993	1
Wiltshire	1990	2
	1991	7
	1992	9
	1993	18
	1994	21
Yorkshire North	1991	1
	1992	4

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how much his Department has paid out in compensation for cattle slaughtered as positive reactors or dangerous contacts in each English county or region in each of the last five years. [31742]

Mrs. Browning: The information is not available in the form requested. However, the amount of compensation paid for cattle slaughtered as positive reactors and dangerous contacts in England in each of the last five years was:

1990: £812,221

1991: £526,259

1992: £683,830

1993: £1,361,728

1994: £1,670,664

Mr. Tyler: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what are the latest figures for the number of cattle infected with tuberculosis shown by his Department's administrative areas for each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [30244]

Mrs. Browning *[holding answer 22 June 1995]:* Bovine tuberculosis is confirmed in cattle on the basis of culture or the discovery of visible lesions. The number of cattle with confirmed bovine tuberculosis in each of the Department's administrative areas in England for each year since 1990 and for the first three months of 1995 were:

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Northern Region						
Cumbria	62	3	12	1	—	—
Durham/Tyne and Wear	2	—	3	1	7	3
Clevedon/Northumberland North Yorkshire	—	1	4	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	1	—	—	—
Midlands and West						
Cheshire	2	—	—	—	1	1
Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hereford and Worcester	1	—	2	12	83	23
Lancashire	2	—	2	1	1	—
Leicester	—	—	2	1	1	—
West Midlands	—	—	3	2	—	—
South West						
Cornwall	92	137	133	277	351	178
Devon	62	42	100	99	189	60
Gloucestershire and Avon	62	57	120	175	214	130
Dorset	4	12	5	21	19	1
Somerset	—	—	—	65	15	19
Wiltshire	4	45	60	89	60	14
South East						
Oxford	1	—	—	3	2	—
Hampshire/IOW	—	2	—	—	—	—
Kent	14	6	2	—	3	14
Eastern						
Lincoln	—	—	—	1	—	3
Huntingdon	—	—	—	—	—	1

The increasing incidence of bovine tuberculosis in the south-west of England is a matter of concern both for the Department and for the farmers involved. It is hoped the five-year trial of a badger control strategy based on the use of a live test for tuberculosis in badgers, which started last winter, will alleviate the problem. Work is also under way to develop alternative solutions for the longer term, including the development of a vaccine for badgers.

Common Agricultural Policy

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how much of the total 1995 EU CAP budget, in ecus, will be spent on *(a)* export refunds, *(b)* intervention buying/storage etc., *(c)* arable area payment schemes, *(d)* production aids and *(e)* removing produce from the market. [31910]

Mr. Waldegrave: The relevant provisions in the 1995 CAP budget are:

	mecu
(a) export refunds	7,246.5
(b) intervention buying/storage	1,290.7
(c) arable area payments	13,133.0
(d) production aids	8,234.0
(e) withdrawals and similar operations for removing produce from the market (other than intervention buying and export refunds)	683.0

Arable Area Payment Scheme

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the largest payment made in England *(a)* under the arable area payment scheme and *(b)* for set-aside, in each year for which the arable area payments scheme has been in operation. [31911]

Mr. Waldegrave: As we have given an undertaking to claimants under the arable area payments scheme that all information regarding their claim is held in confidence, specific information on single claims cannot be published.

Live Exports

Mr. Robert Jackson: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what information he has received from the European Commission on their view taken on the legal opinion obtained by the RSPCA from Mr. Gerald Barling QC, on banning the export of live veal calves using article 36 of the treaty of Rome. [31850]

Mrs. Browning: Commissioner Fischler confirmed to the European Parliament on 14 June that, taking account of the legal opinion obtained by the RSPCA and others, the view of the Commission remained that no member state could have resort to article 36 in order to ban the transport of calves to another member state in which the minimum requirements of directive 91/629 were being observed.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32214]

Mr. Jack: The amount spent by the Department during each of the last two years on public transport and car mileage allowance, at prices and rates current in the relevant year, is:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
(i) public transport	2,285,933	2,148,659
(ii) car mileage allowance	3,770,826	3,714,600

Expenditure on bicycle allowance is not recorded separately but is contained in the public transport figures, which also include some other associated travel costs.

The figure for 1993–94 include the pesticides safety and veterinary medicines directorates.

Responsibility for such matters within ADAS, the central science laboratory, the central veterinary laboratory and the pesticides safety and the veterinary medicines directorates has been delegated to the agency chief executives and I have asked them to reply to you direct.

Meat and Livestock Commission Levy

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the Meat and Livestock Commission levy rate in each year since 1990. [32327]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* The Meat and Livestock Commission levy rates expressed in pence per head for the years 1990–1995 are:

General levy

	Pigs	*Cattle*	*Sheep*	*Calves*
1990–91	37	126	25	8
1991–92	36	140	26	8
1992–93	37	154	26	8
1993–94	37	154	26	8
1994–95	38	160	27	8
1995	39	180	30	8

Species promotion levy

	Pigs	*Cattle*	*Sheep*	*Calves*
1990–91	30	140	20	—
1991–92	30	160	24	—
1992–93	30	174	26	—
1993–94	34	174	26	—
1994–95	50	174	26	—
1995	54	205	30	—

The levies are subject to VAT.

European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Mr. Robin Cook: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will list by each objective and by each other community initiative, including RECHAR and INTERREG the value of assistance received under the European agriculture guidance and guarantee fund both nationally and for each standard region of the United Kingdom for each year since 1989. [31361]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 29 June 1995]:* A table containing details of receipts under the EAGGF guidance section is set out in the table. All expenditure was under objective 5a of the structural funds—promoting rural development by speeding up the adjustment of agricultural structures in the framework of the reform of the common agricultural policy. The EAGGF guidance section has not provided funding for Community initiatives other than INTERREG and LEADER.

I regret that it has not been possible to provide a breakdown by standard region as EC receipts are accounted for by the agricultural departments, rather than on a regional basis.

Total UK receipts under the EAGGF guidance section

£ million

	1989–90	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*[1]
Non-objective 1						
England—total receipts of which—	18.94	20.33	20.73	21.02	19.18	6.70
LEADER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.08	0.07
Scotland—total receipts of which—	15.86	20.70	26.39	21.03	23.88	9.06
LEADER[2]						
Wales—total receipts of which—	9.12	9.84	10.64	9.54	8.87	7.51
LEADER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.30	0.08
Total non-objective 1	43.92	50.87	57.76	51.59	51.93	23.27
Of which LEADER[2]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.38	0.15
Objective 1						
Northern Ireland—total receipts of which—	9.44	9.85	28.95	20.24	26.62	25.96
LEADER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.30
INTERREG	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	2.76	0.00
Scotland—total receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.10
Total Objective 1	9.44	9.85	28.95	20.24	26.62	29.05
Total UK	53.36	60.72	86.71	71.83	78.55	52.32

1. Up to and including 1993–94, an element of EAGGF Guidance Section funding related to fisheries.
2. There were no receipts in respect of Objective 1 expenditure in England in 1994–95.
[1] Provisional.
[2] No breakdown by financial year is available for Scotland under LEADER. The total amount received to date is £0.68 million.

Folic Acid

Mr. Gareth Wardell: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans he has to make it his policy compulsorily to fortify flour with folic acid to reduce the instance of spina bifida and other neural tube defects. [31332]

Mrs. Browning: The issue of fortification of foods is currently being considered by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy.

Currently manufacturers may voluntarily fortify flour and other foods with folic acid.

SCOTLAND

Nursing Homes

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people in Scotland aged over 64 years live in *(a)* private residential homes, *(b)* private nursing homes, *(c)* local authority residential homes and *(d)* national health service nursing homes; and, of these, how many have the cost of their care paid wholly or partly by (i) their local authority, (ii) their health board and (iii) the Department of Social Security; and how many pay for their care wholly from private resources. [25973]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[pursuant to his reply, 12 June 1995, c. 366–67]:* The available information is:

Estimated number of people aged 65+ in residential care homes in Scotland at 31 March 1994

Residential Care Homes	*Number*
Local Authority Homes	7,800
Private Homes	4,050
Voluntary Homes	4,260

Financial support to long-stay residents aged 65+ in private and voluntary residential care homes at 31 March 1994

Means of support	*Private homes*	*Voluntary homes*
Wholly by private means	1,065 (38 per cent.)	1,071 (31 per cent.)
Wholly by health board	43 (2 per cent.)	24 (1 per cent.)
DSS preserved rights[1] and private means	1,282 (46 per cent.)	1,696 (50 per cent.)
DSS preserved rights[1] and local authority top-up	148 (5 per cent.)	264 (8 per cent.)
Local authority[2]	259 (9 per cent.)	326 (10 per cent.)
Total number where means of support known	2,797 (100 per cent.)	3,381 (100 per cent.)

[1] Pre 1 April 1993 higher rates of income support.[2] Post April 1993 arrangements. Local Authorities have financial responsibility for placements. Residents are supported by the local authority and through ordinary income support and residential allowance from DSS.

The financial support of short-stay residents is not collected. The financial support of the remaining residents was unknown due to non-return of forms or missing data on individual residents.

All residents of local authority homes will have their care wholly or partly funded by local authority. At May 1994, 1,000 residents of local authority homes also received income support at the part III rate—equivalent to the state retirement pension.

Nursing Homes

Information on nursing homes is not collected on the same basis.

Estimated number of residents, all ages, at 31 March 1994 is 15,700.

Number of residents aged 65+ at May 1994 receiving pre 1993 higher rates of income support is 8,000.

Other residents will be supported by local authorities, health boards or through private means.

Gaelic

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many consultations his Department has held with groups aiming to increase the use of Gaelic in Scotland in the years *(a)* 1991, *(b)* 1992, *(c)* 1993 and *(d)* 1994; and if he will make a statement. [29620]

Sir Hector Monro: The Scottish Office has frequent discussions, both formal and informal, with Gaelic organisations and others involved in the support and development of the language and culture. No central record of all such discussions is held, but over the last 12 months, for example, officials have had formal meetings with Comunn na Gaidhlig, An Comunn Gaidhealach, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the National Gaelic Arts Project, the Scottish Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, Feisean nan Gaidheal, Comann an Luchd-Ionnsachaidh, Comhairle nan Sgoiltean Araich and Comann nam Parant. In addition, they met a delegation of students from Edinburgh university with a petition about Gaelic education and have had discussions on various aspects of Gaelic development with the Scottish Arts Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and a number of regional councils. Similar meetings took place in the earlier years.

Over the period 1991 to 1994, Ministers have attended a Royal National Mod, the opening of the Gaelic Television Committee's office in Stornoway and the opening of the new extension to Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye. In addition, Ministers have held one formal meeting with representatives of the Gaelic Television Committee and met representatives of the Gaelic parliamentary group last year to discuss issues relating to Gaelic education.

Right to Buy

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to allow all community-based housing association tenants the right to buy; and if he will make a statement. [31077]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: We are presently developing with Scottish Homes a scheme to enable housing association tenants to buy their homes on a voluntary basis. The Scottish Federation of Housing Associations will be consulted in due course.

M74

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what studies his Department has made into the possibility of the completion of the M74 motorway between Fullarton and the Kingston bridge, Glasgow, by means of a tunnel; and if he will make a statement. [30956]

Lord James Douglas Hamilton: This proposed section of motorway is the responsibility of Strathclyde regional council. The Scottish Office has undertaken no studies as to how this new route might be constructed.

M8

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to widen part, or all, of the M8 motorway between Glasgow and Edinburgh; and if he will make a statement. [30955]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The Government's highest priority for the Glasgow-Edinburgh road is to provide motorway conditions over the whole length. The link between Newbridge and the Edinburgh city bypass is presently under construction and tenders are now to be sought for the first phase of the construction of motorway between Newhouse and Baillieston.

The existing section of motorway is now reaching the end of its structural life and requires refurbishment. Plans for work on the first section to be repaired, between Newhouse and Shotts, include widening to dual-three lanes, in line with the standards approved for the construction of the new section of motorway immediately to the west. Preparatory studies will be initiated this year to examine whether reconstruction work between Shotts and Newhouse should involve widening.

Civil Servants

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the total number of civil servants in each department of the Scottish Office for *(a)* 1991, *(b)* 1992, *(c)* 1993, *(d)* 1994 and *(e)* 1995. [31291]

Mr. Lang: The number of civil servants in each department of the Scottish Office is shown in the following table. The figures relate to 1 April in the years from 1991 to 1995.

Staff in post in the Scottish Office and Executive Agencies (full time equivalent) at 1 April

	1991	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*
Agriculture and Fisheries Department	1,230.0	1,033.5	1,070.5	1,079.5	1,038.1
Environment Department	670.0	475.0	486.0	488.5	437.5
Education Department	544.0	439.5	468.5	479.0	319.2
Industry Department	383.0	544.5	533.0	535.5	490.2
Home and Health Department	893.5	936.0	663.0	672.0	615.0
Central Services	1,754.5	1,719.0	1,702.0	1,580.5	1,317.3
Total Scottish Office core	5,475.0	5,147.5	4,923.0	4,835.0	4,217.3
Historic Scotland	610.5	630.5	642.0	636.0	633.6
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	196.5	215.5	226.5	250.0	237.5
Scottish Agricultural Science Agency	0.0	138.5	142.0	138.0	142.2
Scottish Office Pensions Agency	0.0	0.0	164.5	175.5	161.4
Student Awards Agency for Scotland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	135.0
Executive Agencies (excluding SPS)	807.0	984.5	1,175.0	1,199.5	1,309.7
Total (excluding SPS)	6,282.0	6,132.0	6,098.0	6,034.5	5,527.0
Scottish Prison Service	4,004.0	4,228.5	4,625.0	4,512.5	4,232.7

Residential Care

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what response he has made to the document relating to the development of a co-operative sub-sector of the independent sector passed to his Department by the hon. Member for Paisley, South on 14 June; and if he will make a statement. [31379]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: In my letter of 29 June to the hon. Member, I thanked him for providing a copy of the report. I said:

"It is very encouraging to see such an initiative which seeks to broaden the range of provision of residential care and which identifies quality and costs as the key elements to achieving success. I shall watch this and similar developments with interest".

Flood Damage

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will meet a delegation representing the Paisley south end flood committee; and if he will make a statement. [31399]

Mr. Kynoch: I know that the Paisley south end flood committee is providing local assistance to those persons still unable to return to their homes following the flooding in December 1994. Their fund-raising efforts are to be commended. The Government have made substantial assistance available to individuals and local authorities, as detailed in my reply to the hon. Member on 21 April 1995; the committee should continue to seek support from the Strathclyde regional council hardship fund and the Renfrew district council's provost fund.

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what conclusions he has reached on the causes of the flooding during December 1994 in *(a)* the south end of Paisley, *(b)* Park avenue, Paisley, *(c)* Collier street, Johnstone and *(d)* other locations within the Paisley, South constituency; what information he has sought and obtained from local and statutory authorities in relation to this flooding; what further plans he has to encourage and facilitate flood prevention measures in these areas; and if he will make a statement. [31389]

Sir Hector Monro: The exceptional rainfall to the south of Paisley over the weekend 9 to 11 December is estimated by the Clyde river purification board to have a statistical return period of over 500 years. Some natural channels and culverts could not cope with the resulting run-off. In some cases, this was exacerbated by blockages to culvert screens. Strathclyde regional council, presently the body with flood prevention powers, has recorded details of notified flood incidents across its area and will make this information available to unitary councils, which inherit these powers in April 1996. The Government have offered to assist with further studies but the council has not yet made any proposals. Renfrew district council, however, as a riparian owner, has given high priority to improving culverts at Stockholm crescent.

Details of damage to housing and other property have been provided by Renfrew district council. In setting the housing revenue account allocation for council housing investment in 1995–96 the Government met in full the council's request for additional funds. Government grant at the rate of 50 per cent. is available for flood prevention schemes should Strathclyde, or the new councils, decide to take further action.

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions his Department has had in respect of arranging a visit by Her Majesty the Queen to flood victims in *(a)* the south end of Paisley and the town of Johnstone and *(b)* the Ferguslie park area; and if he will make a statement. [31484]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Her Majesty the Queen had already accepted an invitation to visit Ferguslie park to open the Tannahill centre before the flooding took place across south-west Scotland in December. In the light of the flooding, it was decided that a short visit to the Candren road area of Ferguslie park would be appropriate. It unfortunately was not possible, given the very full programme to which she was already committed that day, to include a visit by the Queen to the other areas affected by the flooding. The Ferguslie Partnership has been responsible for the arrangements for the royal visit and the Scottish Office staff, through their participation in the partnership, have been involved in these arrangements.

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to introduce measures to indemnify the *(a)* landlords, including local authorities and housing associations, and *(b)* residents, occupiers and tenants of properties which have experienced flooding against the risk of future damage to buildings, property and contents from further floods until such times as adequate flood prevention measures have been put in place; and if he will make a statement. [31388]

Mr. Kynoch: It is the responsibility of the landlord to consider insuring the structure of any house or building which they own and the tenant is responsible for insuring the contents of their home. Most public sector landlords have some form of building insurance cover and this is also the case for housing associations.

As far as privately owned stock is concerned, it is for owner-occupiers themselves to make their own arrangements for insuring both the structure of their property and its contents.

Protection of property from flooding is primarily the responsibility of the owner. It is for the riparian owners of water courses, culverts and ditches to maintain these properly. Strathclyde regional council has powers to carry out works to prevent or mitigate flooding, but it has decided not to carry out any flood prevention work in its remaining months of existence.

Local Government Reorganisation

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what restrictions will be placed upon elected members and officers of unitary local authorities travelling abroad on economic development missions to encourage inward investment; how these will differ from the restrictions imposed on the current regional and district authorities; and if he will make a statement. [31397]

Mr. Kynoch: Section 171A (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, which was inserted into that Act by the provisions of section 171 of the Local Governmental etc. (Scotland) Act 1994, requires councils to submit to the Secretary of State for approval their proposals for engaging in economic development activities overseas. Subsection 171A (6) allows the Secretary of State to make his approval subject to conditions. These provisions effectively replicate the terms of section 154A of the 1973 Act which related to local authorities' industrial promotion powers and which

has bene repealed by the 1994 Act. Under the new local government structure, the Secretary of State will, as now, consider all proposals for overseas economic development activity that are submitted to him for approval on their own merits and decide upon them accordingly.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to introduce new measures to deal with *(a)* anti-social tenants in the public sector, *(b)* anti-social tenants in the private sector and *(c)* anti-social neighbours in the owner-occupied sector of housing in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [31385]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The subject of anti-social behaviour by tenants and owner-occupiers is presently being addressed by the Scottish Office in a number of ways. In March, we issued a consultation paper on the effectiveness of controls over neighbour noise, while in May a consultation paper on the possible introduction of probationary tenancies as one means to assist public sector landlords in tackling anti-social behaviour was circulated for comment. The latter was accompanied by a short note to local housing authorities reminding them of the existing range of statutory powers to deal with anti-social behaviour.

Last February, we issued a housing good practice note on tenancy management to all public sector landlords, which included a section on handling neighbour disputes and anti-social behaviour. My Department has also funded the Chartered Institute of Housing to undertake a study of current practice amongst public sector landlords in dealing with anti-social behaviour with a view to identifying effective strategies which may be adopted more widely.

I welcome the announcement by the Scottish Affairs Committee that it proposes to inquire into the subject of housing and anti-social behaviour. I await the Committee's deliberations with interest.

Privatisation

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what further measures he plans for privatisation in areas of policy for which he is responsible, and if he will make a statement. [31380]

Mr. Lang: The Government are committed to continuous exploration of opportunities to improve the conduct of activities currently carried out within the public sector through increased involvement of the private sector, including privatisation where appropriate. We are at present engaged in the privatisation of parts of Scottish Nuclear Ltd. My Department is also reviewing the scope for greater private sector involvement, including the possibility of privatisation, in the activities of Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd.

Community Care

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what policy changes are planned in relation to the future of *(a)* Dykebar hospital, *(b)* Merchiston hospital and *(c)* Elderslie hospital which are likely to affect constituents of Paisley, South who are currently temporarily or permanently resident there. [31396]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: No policy changes are planned. The Government's commitment to providing more appropriate and better facilities in the community remains.

Argyll and Clyde health board and its partners in local government will be issuing a draft joint community care plan for consultation on 4 July. I understand that may make proposals affecting health board residents in the Renfrewshire area.

Summary Cause Actions

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many summary cause actions for recovery of possession of heritable property were raised in Scotland in each year since 1988 based upon notices of proceedings for recovery of possession served in accordance with section 47 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, seeking recovery of possession of properties let under secure tenancies in terms of grounds 2, 7 and 8 of schedule 3 to the said Act and based upon notices of proceedings served upon secure tenants within 12 months of the commencement of the secure tenancy. [31533]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 29 June 1995]:* The information requested is not available in the detail sought. The total numbers of disposals of all summary cause actions for the recovery of possession of heritable property where decree was granted to the pursuer for each of the years in question are shown in the table.

1988:	12,285
1989:	13,722
1990:	13,793
1991:	12,613
1992:	10,647
1993:	11,754
1994:	[1]9,813

[1]Provisional figure.

Competitive Tendering

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland in what circumstances he encourages, condones or permits his Department, or agencies, bodies, organisations or partnerships financially supported by it, to award contracts which have not been subject to competitive tender; and if he will make a statement. [31384]

Mr. Lang: My Department, executive agencies and associated bodies follow the general principles of the Government's pubic purchasing policy as set out in Government accounting. These are based on securing best value for money through procuring by competition unless there are valid reasons to the contrary. Competitive tendering is encouraged to maintain or improve standards and quality and to promote greater innovation.

There is no requirement within my Department to competitively tender for purchases which are less than £500 in value because the cost of the tendering exercise would be likely to outweigh any saving but even in these cases, buyers are encouraged to shop around for the best prices.

Scottish Ambulance Service

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what are his plans for the future of the Scottish ambulance service; and if he will make a statement. [31398]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Since gaining NHS Trust status on 1 April 1995, the Scottish ambulance service has continued to work towards its objectives of providing the highest possible standards of pre-hospital care for patients and an efficient transport service for non-emergency patients.

Notwithstanding the high standard of service that is consistently being delivered, officials of the trust and of the Scottish Office Home and Health Department are considering whether there are any steps that could be taken further to improve the service to those patients who are most in need.

Health Care International

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the 12 members of the Scottish Development Advisory Board in 1988 and the six who attended when the decision was made to back the HCI hospital; and if he will give their qualifications and occupation. [31357]

Mr. Kynoch: The Scottish Industrial Development Advisory Board is established under section 10 of the Industrial Development Act 1982 to advise the Secretary of State for Scotland in respect of his functions in relation to selective financial assistance under section 7 and 8 of that Act. The Act stipulates that "The members of the Board shall include persons who appear to the Secretary of State to have wide experience of, and to have shown capacity in, industry, banking, accounting and finance."

An application for assistance made by Health Care International (Scotland) Ltd. was considered at the board's meeting on 12 April 1988. The board's then membership was:

Member's name and professional qualifications	*Occupational background*
Mr. Yaqub Ali	Wholesale distribution
Mr. Keith Fox	Textile industry
Mr. Thomas Johnston	Precision engineering
Mr. Barrie F. Lawson	Electrical and electronic engineering
Mr. John M. Little, CA ACMA	Mining equipment industry
Mr. Duncan J. MacLeod, CA	Accountancy and finance
Mr. Austin Merrills	Metal industry
Mr. David Paterson	Banking, Insurance and Finance Trade Union
Professor John C. Shaw, FRSE CA FCMA MBCS	Accounting and finance
Mr. Alan K. Smith, F Eng FI Mech E F Weld I	Engineering
Sir Robert Smith, CA (Chairman)	Accounting, finance and investment
Mr. Robert Thomson	General, Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union

Of these, Mr. Ali, Mr. Little, Mr. MacLeod, Mr. Paterson, Sir Robert Smith and Mr. Thomson attended the meeting on 12 April 1988, although Mr. MacLeod withdrew when the Health Care International (Scotland) Ltd. application was discussed since his firm was acting as an adviser to the company.

Kelvin Central Bus Co.

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations he has had concerning the closure of the Kelvin central bus co. garages at Milton road, Kirkintilloch, and Stepps; and if he will make a statement. [28585]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 22 June 1995]:* No such representations have been received.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Offshore Oil and Gas Licensing

Sir Michael Neubert: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will announce the award of licences for oil and gas exploration for the North sea and west of Britain under the 16th round of offshore licensing.

Mr. Page: I informed the House on 18 May that I was awarding licences for each of the 26 blocks in the west of Shetland area for which applications were received in the 16th offshore licensing round, and fast tracked these awards so that companies have been able to start work this summer.

Other areas around include the North sea and the west and south of Britain and I am offering licences for 53 of the 56 blocks applied for. In all, I have been able to offer licences for 79 blocks of the 82 blocks applies for in the 16th round, a reflection of the very high standard of applications received and which will help to ensure that the current high level of exploration continues.

Today's awards will result in the shooting of over 3,500 sq. km. of 3D seismic surveys and over 4,000 line kilometres of 2D seismic surveys. Companies have also committed themselves to drill 13 wells in the next two years and a further nine during the rest of the six-year phase of the licences. This level of commitment means that new wells will be drilled in all of the areas offered in the round. In the whole round 7,500 sq. km. of 3D seismic surveys will be carried out and 50 new wells drilled.

Companies applied for blocks in all of the areas offered in the 16th round. As well as the west of Shetland, there was an encouraging level of interest in the west of Cardigan bay where five blocks have been licensed for the first time. There are also a number of blocks in the east Irish sea and English channel that have not been previously licensed. Many blocks in this part of the round received competing applications of extremely high quality, although as expected, competition was generally less than for the west of Shetland.

I have taken fully into account that a number of the areas offered for licensing in this part of the Round are environmentally sensitive, especially those areas close to the coast. For this reason, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Industry and Energy announced an initiative last year involving the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the UK Offshore Operators Association to produce a series of regional coastal reports which provide

valuable data on the coastal and environmental resources in the area concerned.

When examining applications for blocks in these areas, we made sure that applicant companies took account of the environmental resources identified in the reports when planning their work programmes and that they demonstrated how they planned to avoid or minimise any risks to those resources from oil and gas exploration. All companies awarded licences have shown a strong commitment to environmental protection and to the appropriate conditions which are contained in their licences.

These awards—and those announced earlier for blocks in the west of Shetland—have shown the continuing high level of commitment by the oil and gas companies to the United Kingdom continental shelf. The widespread interest in exploration in an increasing number of areas in the UKCS will help to secure the UK's position as an oil and gas producer well into the next century.

Inward Investment

Sir Michael Neubert: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the United Kingdom's performance in attracting internationally mobile investment projects in 1994–95.

Mr. Heseltine: My Department's Investment in Britain Bureau announced in its annual review, published today, that 1994–95 was another very successful year for attracting inward investment into the United Kingdom.

A total of 434 direct investment projects were recorded by the IBB for the period 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995. This is an increase of 30 projects over the previous year, the highest figure ever recorded, and demonstrates quite clearly just how attractive the UK continues to be to overseas investors. It is also worth nothing that based on information supplied at the time of the announcements, 36,876 new jobs are expected to be created—an increase of 8,149 over last year's new jobs total.

Those results provide strong evidence that, despite ever increasing competition from elsewhere in the European Union, the UK has retained its No. 1 place in Europe for attracting inward investment. This success reflects the attractiveness of the competitive business environment which exists today, in the UK.

The results are also an indication of the successful partnership between the IBB and the many public and private sector bodies involved in the promotion of inward investment at home and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in existing and emerging markets abroad.

I am arranging for a copy of the review to be placed in the Library of the House.

Gifts to Ministers

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list those gifts received by Ministers in their official capacities and reported to the permanent secretary in each of the last five years. [23784]

Mr. Heseltine: A total of 237 gifts were accepted by DTI Ministers between 1 April 1994 and 31 March 1995. 119 of these were retained by the Ministers and 118 became the property of the Department. Seven of these gifts were valued by the Department at more than £125. Of these seven, five became the property of the Department and two were purchased by the Minister, in accordance with the provisions of "Questions of Procedure for Ministers", by payment of the difference between the Department's retail valuation and £125 limit. A breakdown for each Minister is shown in the table.

Figures for earlier years are not available.

Ministerial Gifts—Financial Year 1994–95

	Total number of gifts	*Retained personal use*	*Retained office use*	*Surrendered to the Department*	*Purchased*
Mr. Heseltine	39	2	1	36	0
Mr. Eggar	76	55	18	2	1
Mr. Needham	50	21	2	26	1
Lord Ferrers	4	4	0	0	0
Lord Strathclyde	6	6	0	0	0
Mr. Sainsbury	13	9	0	4	0
Mr. Evans	9	5	4	0	0
Mr. Hamilton	3	2	0	1	0
Mr. McLoughlin	4	4	0	0	0
Mr. Page	0	0	0	0	0
Mr. Taylor	4	2	2	0	0
Mr. Wardle	29	9	7	13	0
Total	237	119	34	82	2

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32176]

Mr. Heseltine: My Department's records of travel expenditure do not distinguish between the categories in the hon. Member's question. To provide this information would entail disproportionate cost.

Deregulation Task Force

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what were the criteria used to select the right hon. Francis Maude as head of the deregulation task force. [32271]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The deregulation task force's role is to help the President of the Board of Trade promote deregulation and to advise him on action for Government Departments and associated bodies to take to remove unnecessary regulatory burdens on business. In selecting a chairman for the task force the President sought a senior figure who carried weight in both business and political circles.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how much remuneration the right hon. Francis Maude receives as head of the deregulation task force. [32265]

Mr. Evans: The right hon. Francis Maude is not paid for his work as chairman of the deregulation task force but, like other members of the task force, he receives travel and subsistence expenses. Administrative support for Mr. Maude and the task force is provided by the deregulation unit in the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many candidates were considered for the appointment as head of the deregulation task force; and who made the appointment. [32274]

Mr. Evans: A number of possible candidates were considered for this appointment. It would not be appropriate to disclose details of particular names. The appointment was made by my right hon. Friend the President of Board of Trade.

Teaching Company Schemes

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans the Government have to enable small and medium-sized enterprises in Barnsley to benefit from the teaching company schemes for the transfer of technology from universities through the secondment of graduates. [32266]

Mr. Ian Taylor: The Government are doing much to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to benefit from the teaching company scheme and SMEs in Barnsley and throughout the UK stand to gain substantially from these measures.

In 1994–95, Government funding of TCS was about £18 million. My Department is the largest contributor to TCS programme costs with £6 million in 1994–95, and we have announced an increase of £4 million over the three years from 1995–96 to 1996–97. In addition, the European regional development fund is able to co-finance TCS spend with SMEs in the area of Yorkshire and Humberside which includes Barnsley. This further increases the money available for TCS there.

There are 518 TCS programmes current at 31 March 1995 and 278 have a SME as an industrial partner. But my Department aims to further increase the number of SMEs who benefit from TCS; our target is that 80 per cent of DTI-supported TCS programmes will involve SMEs. The recent White Paper "Competitiveness: Forging Ahead" reported that a network of 11 TCS centres for small firms has been established. These TCS centres offer SMEs easier access to the technology, knowledge and skills available in Universities. By the end of this year, the number of TCS will increase to 17 and will cover the whole of the UK. The two TCS centres for small firms based at Leeds Metropolitan University and at Sheffield Hallam University are both well placed to help SMEs in Barnsley.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which universities have a teaching company scheme centre set up by his Department to help the needs of small businesses. [32272]

Mr. Taylor: The 10 TCS centres for small firms part-funded by my Department are located at the following universities.

The University of Brighton
Brunel University
The University of Durham
Leeds Metropolitan University
Nottingham Trent University
The University of Plymouth
The University of Reading
Salford University
Sheffield Hallam University
The University of Warwick

In addition, a TCS centre for small firms administered jointly by the University of Ulster and Queens University Belfast is part funded by the Northern Ireland Office.

Business Links

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what arrangements his Department has considered to ensure that local businesses are not handicapped by the lack of access to quality business advice if their local business link were to be excluded from the business links network because it had failed to meet the accreditation criteria set by his Department. [32270]

Mr. Page: The Business Link Accreditation Board will make recommendations to me on individual business link accreditation. These recommendations will take full account of the impact on local businesses and their continuing access to high quality services, should the licence to use the business link brand be withdrawn.

Insurance Policy Sales

Mr. Denham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he now has to improve the regulation of the sale of mortgage protection and unemployment protection policies to ensure that those selling them are properly trained to do so. [32048]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: None. The sale of creditor insurance policies is already governed by the Association of British Insurers code of practice. The code's operation is kept under constant review by an independent code monitoring committee.

Television Rental Industry

Mr. French: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proposals he has to enhance consumer protection in the television rental industry. [31526]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Most agreements made by consumers for television rental are consumer hire agreements regulated under the Consumer Credit Act 1974. We have no plans to change the provisions of the Act in regard to such agreements.

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31304]

Mr. Heseltine: My Department does not keep separate records of its grants to or contracts with voluntary sector organisations.

Insolvency Practitioners

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what measures he has taken to ensure that *insolvency practitioners* provide adequate disqualification information, following the National Audit Office report on director disqualification. [32601]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The Insolvency Service issued revised guidelines to insolvency practitioners in March 1993 which emphasised the need for timeliness of reports and the adequacy of evidence to support allegations of unfit conduct. These guidelines are being reinforced by the joint insolvency monitoring unit set up in March 1994 by the insolvency profession to raise standards of its members. In addition the Insolvency Service has commenced a programme of visits to practitioners who have a poor record of reporting, backed by prosecution in extreme cases; improved its feedback to insolvency practitioners on reasons why their reports have not met the criteria for commencement of proceedings, and proposed amendments to the disqualification forms used by practitioners, under the Government's deregulation initiative.

Insolvency Service Computer Project

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many computer terminals were purchased by the Insolvency Service to implement the LOIS computer system.

Mr. Jonathan Evans: A total of 1,342 PCs and computer terminals were purchased for the LOIS project.

Official Receiver

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what provision will be made to ensure that, in the event of the contracting out of some of the functions of the official receiver and subsequent requirement on staff to relocate between offices, women staff will not be relatively disadvantaged. [32306]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The Insolvency Service is an equal opportunities employer. In the event of contracting out going ahead, the needs of all staff would be taken into account as far as possible within its operational requirements.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if, in the event of the functions of the official receiver being contracted out, it will be necessary in every case for bankrupts and company directors to attend at the offices of the contractor for interview in order to establish the causes of the failure of the business. [32305]

Mr. Evans: Yes, subject to individual circumstances which would prevent such attendance, such as ill-health.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade in what percentage of cases administered by the official receivers' office in Kingston upon Hull, a trustee or liquidator was appointed at a meeting of creditors or on the instructions of the Secretary of State, in order to realise and distribute assets, in each year since 1986. [32321]

Mr. Evans: The percentage of cases administered by the official receiver's office in Kingston upon Hull in which an insolvency practitioner was appointed as liquidator/trustee are as follows:

Per cent.

Financial year	*Bankruptcy*	*Company*
April 1992–March 1993	28	30
April 1993–March 1994	24	36
April 1994–March 1995	27	48

Information for previous years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what guidance is given to staff of the Insolvency Service, in addition to their training, to ensure that they interview and conduct their inquiries into the affairs of bankrupts and company directors on a professional and consistent basis throughout the 33 official receivers' offices in England and Wales. [32309]

Mr. Evans: A consistent and professional approach is obtained through a thorough programme of training including the sitting of Certified Association of Chartered Accountants examinations by examiners, and the use of an internal technical manual which is regularly updated by the issue of technical bulletins.

A system of management is in place which allows policies to be cascaded through regional managers to official receivers, who in turn disseminate the information to their staff to ensure that consistent practices are applied throughout the country. There is also a professional service action plan which stipulates the conduct of staff when dealing with customers and a pocket guide to investigative interviewing which is being introduced for staff who conduct interviews.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if, in the event of some of the functions of the official receiver being contracted out, bids will be invited from the management and staff of the Insolvency Service. [32307]

Mr. Evans: The advertisements inviting expressions of interest were open to all interested parties and any member of staff of the Insolvency Service will be able to be involved in the contracting out process in the same way as potential providers from the private sector.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will provide an estimate of the maximum distances currently travelled by bankrupts and company directors to be interviewed, in respect of each of the areas covered by each of the official receiver's offices in England and Wales. [32323]

Mr. Evans: This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost. There are 33 official receivers' offices throughout England and Wales providing local accessibility for all bankrupts, directors and members of the public having business with the Insolvency Service.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what written guidance is given to the staff of the official receiver's office, in addition to their training, as to the conduct of their initial enquiries and interviews; and if the same written guidance will be given to contractors engaged in carrying out initial enquiries if some of the functions of the official receiver are contracted out. [32324]

Mr.Evans: All specialist staff within the Insolvency Service have copies of the Insolvency Service technical manual which provides written guidance for the conduct of their initial enquiries and interviews. In the event of contracting out, such guidance would be issued to contractors.

British Nuclear Fuels plc

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, what responsibility he has as *(a)* director and *(b)* shareholder for the accounts of BNFL; if he has approved the accounts issued since his appointment as President and what steps his Department takes to verify them. [32199]

Mr. Eggar: It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors of British Nuclear Fuels plc to prepare accounts for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts. The annual report of the directors and the audited accounts are submitted to the shareholder at the company's annual general meeting. The company's auditors are responsible for forming an independent opinion, based on their audit, on the accounts and for reporting their opinion to the shareholder. Under the terms of section 14 of the Atomic Energy Authority Act 1971, my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade is responsible for laying copies of BNFL's report and accounts before Parliament.

Gas Regulator

Mr. O'Neill: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what criteria will be used to judge the effectiveness of the Gas Regulator in promoting competition. [30073]

Mr. Eggar: The proposed new section 39(2A) of the Gas Act provides that the Director General must report annually to Parliament on the extent of effective competition and on developments in respect of that competition. That will enable Parliament and the public to make appropriate judgments on the effectiveness of the director's work.

Gas Bill (Shippers Licences)

Mr. O'Neill: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment he has made of the impact of the Gas Bill's requirement to legacy transportation holders to operate on terms with like effect and consequences as those without these contracts on increased competition in the gas market. [30098]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 26 June 1995]:* The requirements in question, which are contained in the draft standard conditions of shippers' licences, are designed to help secure effective competition in the gas market. We believe, subject to any further points arising in the continuing consultation, that they will have this effect.

Brent Spar

Mr. Dobson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will publish a list of the titles of each report made to his Department by Shell UK about options for the future of the Brent Spar, the name of the person or organisation responsible for the report and the date on which they were written; and if he will place copies of each report in the Library. [31022]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 26 June 1995]:* Copies of the Brent Spar best practicable environmental option assessment and impact hypothesis produced by Rudall Blanchard Associates Limited dated December 1994 were sent to the Oslo and Paris Commission on 16 February 1995, and are in the public domain. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. The supporting studies submitted by Shell to my Department were as follows:

Study	*Date*
A General arrangement of Spar	December 1994
B Inventory	March 1993
C Decommissioning and Abandonment Screening Study for the Brent Spar Facility/McDermott Engineering Europe	April 1993
D Likelihood and Extent of Contamination by Low Specific Activity Scale, Sand and Sludges within the Oil Storage Tanks and Associated Systems on the Brent Spar Loading Facility/ICI Tracerco	May 1995
E Brent Spar Abandonment Assessment of items and Materials for Retention Metocean	April 1994
F Brent Spar, Onshore Disposal Feasibility Study/McDermott Engineering Europe	April 1993
G Brent Spar Removal and Dumping Global Maritime	April 1993
H Environmental Impacts of Two Disposal Options for the Brent Spar Buoy/AURIS Environmental	May 1994
I Safety Assessment of the Removal and Disposal of Brent Spar/Aberdeen University Engineering Services	May 1994
J Brent Spar Scraping Study Heerema Engineering Services (UK)	May 1994

Study	Date
K	
Evaluation of Environmental Aspects of the Deep Water Disposal Option/Metocean	April 1993
L	
Brent Spar Radiological Impact Study ICI Tracerco	May 1994
M	
Best Practicable Environmental Option Preliminary Evaluation Report/Metocean	June 1994
N	
Scope of Work for Deep Sea Surveys of Potential Disposal Sites/Shell Export/SOAFD	June 1994

I am considering, in consultation with Shell and the companies responsible for the supporting studies, whether they may also in due course be placed in the Library of the House. Such consideration will need to take account of commercial confidentiality and intellectual property rights.

Mr. Dobson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) if he will list, for the period January 1991 to June 1995, all meetings held and all correspondence or other documentation received or sent between Ministers or officials in his Department and Ministers or other representatives of other foreign Governments in which options for the future of the Brent Spar installation were mentioned, giving for each separate meeting or documentation *(a)* the date on which the meeting was held, the correspondence or documentation received or correspondence or documentation sent. *(b)* a full list of attendees at each meeting or authors and recipients of the correspondence or documentation and *(c)* the topics discussed at the meeting or title and nature of the correspondence or documentation; and if he will place each piece of correspondence or documentation in the Library, [31010]

(2) if he will publish a list for the period January 1991 to June 1995 of all meetings held and all correspondence or other documentation received or sent between Ministers or officials in his Department with any of the Royal Dutch Shell Group of companies or any of its subsidiaries including the Shell petroleum Co. Ltd UK, in which options for the future of Brent Spar installation were mentioned, giving for each separate meeting or documentation *(a)* the date on which the meeting was held, the correspondence or documentation received or correspondence or documentation sent, *(b)* a full list of attendees at each meeting or authors and recipients of the correspondence or documentation and *(c)* the topics discussed at the meeting or title and the nature of the correspondence or documentation; and if he will place copies of each piece of correspondence or documentation in the Library. [31001]

(3) if he will list, for the period January 1991 to June 1995 all meetings held and all correspondence or other documentation received or sent between Ministers or officials in his Department and Ministers or officials in other Government Departments in which options for the future of the Brent Spar installation were mentioned, giving for each separate meeting or documentation *(a)* the date on which the meeting was held, the correspondence or documentation received or correspondence or documentation sent, *(b)* a full list of attendees of each meeting or authors and recipients of the correspondence or documentation, and *(c)* the topics discussed at the meeting or title and nature of correspondence or documentation; and if he will place copies of each piece of correspondence or documentation in the Library. [31011]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answers 26 June 1995]:* It is my intention to make available in the Library of the House as soon as possible an appropriate set of documents relating to the Brent Spar in accordance with the code of practice on access to government information.

Ms Roseanna Cunningham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) which of the reports referred to his Department by Shell dealt specifically with the option of onshore decommissioning; and if he will make a statement, [31252]

(2) if he will list each report made available to him by Shell on which the decision was based to dispose of the Brent Spar by dumping if offshore; which of these were passed to his Department for inspection *(a)* in their entirety or *(b)* in summary form; and if he will place copies in the Library. [31253]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answers 28 June 1995]:* The reports submitted by Shell to my Department are listed in the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Holborn and St. Pancras (Mr. Dobson) today. The reports were submitted in their entirety. Two dealt specifically with onshore disposal: "Brent Spar Onshore Disposal Feasibility Study" by McDermott Engineering (Europe) Ltd, and "Brent Spar Scrapping Study" by Heerema Engineering Services (UK) Limited.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Betts: To ask the President of the Board of Trade by how much Government spending has changed in 1994–95 as a result of the private finance initiative, what is the estimated effect in 1995–96; how many jobs are to be created by schemes approved to date under the initiative and how many have been lost as a consequence in the public sector; and what is the forecast of transfer of employment from public to private sector over the last five years because of the initiative. [30821]

Mr. Heseltine *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* In addition to my Department's capital provision, £35.7 million was spent on the refurbishment of No. 1 Victoria street in 1994–95 as a result of obtaining private finance for this project. Around £30.5 million will be spent in 1995–96 on the same basis. No calculation has been made of the jobs this project has created/saved in the private sector but none has been lost in the public sector. No forecast has been made of the transfer of employment from the public to the private sector as a result of PFI.

Health and Safety

Mr. Chidgey: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many Company directors have been disqualified under the company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 for breaches of health and safety laws. [29240]

Mr. Oppenheim *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* I have been asked to reply.

One company director has been disqualified for breaches of health and safety laws under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Disabled People

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) if he will make a statement about the levels of disability in Northern Ireland in comparison with other parts of the United Kingdom and account for the differences; [31416]

(2) what research he has conducted or intends to conduct on levels of disability in Northern Ireland. [31417]

Sir John Wheeler: In order to estimate the prevalence of disability among adults and children, a set of surveys was conducted in Northern Ireland during 1989–90. The surveys were designed to allow comparisons to be made with a similar set of surveys carried out in Great Britain.

From these surveys, it is estimated that there are 201,000 disabled adults and 14,600 disabled children living in Northern Ireland. The prevalence of disability among adults in Northern Ireland is 174 per thousand, which exceeds the rate of 142 per thousand in Great Britain. The rate among children in Northern Ireland is 35 per thousand, which is similar to the rate of 32 per thousand observed in Great Britain.

Information on the levels of disability in Northern Ireland is provided in table 2.8 of "Policy, Planning and Research Unit Surveys of Disability Report 1: the Prevalence of Disability among Adults in Northern Ireland" and in table 2.9 of "Policy, Planning and Research Unit Surveys of Disability Report 2: The Prevalence of Disability among Children in Northern Ireland", copies of which have been placed in the Library.

Comparative information for other parts of the United Kingdom is provided in table 3.9 of "OPCS Surveys of Disability in Great Britain Report 1: the prevalence of disability among adults" and in table 3.8 of "OPTS Surveys of Disability in Great Britain 3: the prevalence of disability among adults" and in Table 3.8 of "OPCS Surveys of Disability in Great Britain Report 3: the prevalence of disability among children", copies of which are also available in the Library.

These surveys were not designed to look at the underlying complaints or causes of disabilities, nor to speculate about the numerous possible reasons for regional differences observed.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding in Northern Ireland from the European Union is spent on meeting the needs of the disabled. [31415]

Sir John Wheeler: The main source of European Union funding is the Northern Ireland single programming document, which covers the period 1994–99. The needs of the disabled are addressed under the priority investment in communities and people and specifically the training for special target groups and training infrastructure measures. Over the programme period, it is estimated that some £18 million—22.73 mecu—will be available from these measures for the provision of vocational training and associated services for the disabled. These measures are complemented by the targeting social needs measure, which may assist disabled groups but is primarily aimed at helping deprived and marginalised people, particularly in areas of social and economic deprivation. In addition to the main NI programme, assistance of some £3 million—3.78 mecu—is also available to the disabled, under the employment community initiative programme 1994–99.

An exchange rate of £1:1.25 mecu has been used.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals he has to require public transport undertakings to take more notice of the needs of the disabled. [31419]

Mr. Moss: The Government have brought forward amendments to the Disability Discrimination Bill to allow it to set minimum standards of accessibility in new land-based public transport vehicles. These provisions will apply to Northern Ireland public transport operations.

Education and Library Boards

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish the analysis of cost savings to be achieved by reducing the number of education and library boards in Northern Ireland from five to four. [31422]

Mr. Ancram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 June, *Official Report*, columns *587–88*.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many responses in respect of the consultative document, "Educational Administration in Northern Ireland: Proposals for Change", supported the removal of control of further education from the education and library boards to the Department of Education. [31656]

Mr. Ancram: Twenty-two responses have been received, which support the removal of the further education colleges from board control. A range of views has been expressed on the most appropriate centralised planning and funding arrangements.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many responses made in respect of the consultative document, "Educational Administration in Northern Ireland: Proposals for Change", called for the withdrawal of the proposals pending local parliamentary democracy and if he will list those representations; [31657]

(2) how many responses made in respect of the consultative document, "Educational Administration in Northern Ireland: Proposals for Change", supported the rationalisation measures and how many favoured decentralisation. [31658]

Mr. Ancram: So far, I have received some 1,400 written responses to the proposals for change document. They relate to the full range of proposals in the document rather than to any specific aspect of them. The responses are being indexed and analysed at present and it is therefore not possible to provide the information requested at this time.

Dial-a-ride Schemes

Mr. Worthington: To ask the secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dial-a-ride schemes there are in Northern Ireland; and what proposals he has to introduce more. [31418]

Mr. Moss: There are two dial-a-ride schemes operating in Northern Ireland—the Easyrider scheme, which operates in north and west Belfast, and Citylink, which operates in Londonderry. The Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland supports both schemes and is currently considering options for their future development. There are no plans to introduce more dial-a-ride schemes in Northern Ireland.

Education Inspectorate Boards

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his education inspectorate's reports on *(a)* institutes of further education; and *(b)* private training agencies are published; and on what grounds. [31423]

Mr. Ancram: Reports of inspections of institutions of further education in Northern Ireland have been published.

Reports of inspections of recognised training organisations—that is, those receiving public funding for their training programmes, including institutes of further education and private training agencies—have so far been distributed to the funding organisations and to the manager and, if applicable, to the chairman of the management committee of the training organisations to which the report refers, and will be made available to the public for inspections undertaken after 1 September 1995.

Public Bodies

Mr. Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the members of Northern Ireland quangos, indicating which are appointed by the Secretary of State and which are appointed by, or on the recommendation of local authorities, with the scale of remuneration in each case. [30503]

Sir John Wheeler: The membership of public bodies in Northern Ireland is contained in the Northern Ireland public appointments list, a copy of which is available in the Library. Remuneration for the chairmen and members, plus details of those appointed by the Secretary of State or on the recommendation of local authorities, have also been placed in the Library.

Terrorist Offenders

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people who have served prison sentences for terrorist offences have subsequently been convicted of further terrorist offences after their release during the last 25 years, or for as many years as figures are available,. [23367]

Sir John Wheeler: Figures for the reconviction of terrorist offenders are not kept and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, research carried out by the Northern Ireland Office in 1987 found that of those prisoners convicted of terrorist-related offences who were released in 1984, 20 per cent. were reconvicted of scheduled offences and 20 per cent. of non-scheduled offences in the following two years. The reconviction rate for life sentence prisoners is lower. Only two life sentence prisoners convicted of terrorist-related offences have been reconvicted of further offences directly related to terrorism, although others have been convicted of other scheduled offences.

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prisoners currently serving sentences for terrorist offences would be eligible for release if they could qualify for 50 per cent. remission; how many of those can be categorised as *(a)* loyalist and *(b)* republican; and if he will make a statement. [32268]

Sir John Wheeler: Precise figures are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Approximately 400 prisoners are currently serving sentences for scheduled offences which attract one third remission under section 14 of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1991. Of this 400, between 20 and 30 prisoners will be released by the end of 1995. If the law were changed to restore the rate of remission to 50 per cent. with retrospective effect, between 70 and 80 prisoners would be released immediately and a further 40 and 50 by the end of the year. Such a change would release approximately equal numbers of republican and loyalist over that period.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32172]

Sir John Wheeler: The information is as follows:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95*[1] £
Public transport	1,829,775	1,587,277
Car mileage allowance	9,503,424	9,214,904
Bicycle allowance	[2]—	[2]—

[1] At 1993–94 prices.

[2] Minimal or negligible amounts included in car mileage allowance.

ENVIRONMENT

Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the future in a service is not adversely affected by any orders presented to parliamentary by the Secretary of State for the Environment concerning the reform of local government in Leicestershire and the city of Leicester; [30670]

(2) if he will ensure that the Leicestershire museums, arts and records service will be maintained as an integrated operations after the coming into effect of local government reorganisation in Leicester. [30671]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given to him by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for National Heritage on 27 June, *Official Report*, column *600*.

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31311]

Sir Paul Beresford: In 1993–94, the Department of the Environment paid direct grants centrally to more than 400 voluntary sector organisations to the value of £28 million. In addition, indirect grant of some £2.5 billion was paid to voluntary organisations; this amount includes all grant-paid by the Department to the Housing Corporation for the support of housing associations. Voluntary sector organisations also benefitted from the task force initiative and the city challenge programme but the precise figures are unavailable.

Figures for 1994–95 are not yet available.

Corresponding information on contracts is not collected centrally.

Subsidence

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what information his Department holds on the incidence of subsidence of domestic dwellings, by area; in what form the information is held; and if this information can be related to post code areas. [31926]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Building Research Establishment maintains a subsidence database, containing statistical data on subsidence damage to houses, for use in the engineering assessment of causes and remedies but this does not contain information by area. However, there is no central record of incidents of subsidence damage to houses by area. The prime holder of such information would be the member companies of the Association of British Insurers and access to their data may be limited by commercial considerations.

My Department's research has produced small-scale maps and databases on a national grid reference and administrative area basis, which can be interpreted to assess the susceptibility to subsidence from mining, natural underground cavities and shrinkable clay formations and to landsliding. In addition, the British Geological Survey operates a ground hazard assessment service (G–HASP) which contains an assessment of the susceptibility to subsidence from various causes on a national grid reference and post code basis.

Bell Green (Contaminated Land)

Mr. Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will undertake an inquiry by his Department to ensure that the London Waste Regulation Authority has fully complied with its legal and operational responsibilities with regard to the treatment of contaminated land at the ex-gas works site, Bell green, London SE26.

Mr. Atkins: I have received no evidence which leads me to believe that the London Waste Regulation Authority may have failed to discharge its functions under part II of the Environment Protection Act 1990 in relation to the site referred to by the hon. Member.

Battersea Power Station

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the future development of Battersea power station; and if he will list the people and organisations with whom he has discussed this issue during the last six months. [31702]

Sir Paul Beresford: Discussions are continuing between Wandsworth council, English Heritage and the owners, on a master plan for the whole of the Battersea power station site. The Government are not a party to those discussions, but would like to see the future development of this important site on the river Thames resolved as soon as possible.

Capital Receipts

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what information he has on the level of accumulated capital receipts by each local authority. [31755]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: The latest information on the level of accumulated capital receipts relates to the position at 31 March 1994. The level of receipts can be split into two components; *(a)* usable capital receipts and *(b)* amounts set aside from capital receipts as provision for credit liabilities.

A list of the amounts of usable capital receipts held by each local authority at 31 March 1994 was placed in the Library of the House in response to the question of Thursday 9 February 1995 from the hon. Member for Holborn and St. Pancras (Mr. Dobson).

In response to the question of Tuesday 28 March 1995 from the hon. Member for Greenwich (Mr. Raynsford), a further list was placed in the Library of the amounts set aside by each local authority as provision for credit liabilities and not yet applied. These include amounts set aside from both capital receipts and revenue. Separate figures are not available.

Water Companies

Mr. Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the efficiency savings for the last financial year for each water company for which figures are available. [32107]

Mr. Atkins: As a result of efficiency savings in 1994–95, water companies announced the following benefits:

	For customers	
Water company	*Cash*	*Other*
Anglian	£12 million over 1 year	£2 million Trust Fund
North West	£90 million over 5 years	£180 million Discretionary investment
Severn Trent	£87 million over 4 years	£24 million Discretionary investment

For customers

Water company	*Cash*	*Other*
Yorkshire	£20 million over 1 year	£125 million Discretionary investment
Welsh	£40 million over 4 years	£38 million Discretionary investment
Wessex	nil	£25 million Discretionary investment

For shareholders

Water company	*Special dividends*	*Other*
North West	£90 million over 5 years	nil
Severn Trent	£87 million over 5 years	nil
Yorkshire	None announced	£50 million efficiency dividend paid by core business to support future enhanced dividend growth
Welsh Water	£9 million per annum in perpetuity	Prospect of dividend growth from new base including special dividend

Mr. Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the capital investment made in the last financial year for each water company for which figures are available. [32108]

Mr. Atkins: During 1993–94, the last full year for which information is available, capital investment made by the water industry totalled £2.9 billion. Figures for individual companies are not held centrally.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *a)* 1993–94 and *b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32211]

Sir Paul Beresford: The amount of travel claims, at current prices, paid in my Department excluding agencies, are:

£ thousands

	1993–94	*1994–95*
Public Transport	1,492	1,652
Car/bicycle mileage allowance	383	357

Information on bicycle claims is not available separately.

Radioactive Waste Management

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he will announce the results of the Government's review of radioactive waste management policy, and if he will make a statement. [32968]

Mr. Gummer: The final conclusions of the review are being published today in a White Paper—Cm 2919—copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. It includes the conclusions that I have already announced ont timing of the Nirex repository and strategies for decommissioning nuclear plant—*Official Report*, 9 May 1995, column *425*—as well as on the siting of dry stores for spent fuel, *Official Report*, 21 February 1995, column *146*. In reaching their final conclusions, the Government have taken account of responses to the preliminary conclusions of the review, which were published in a consultation paper last August.

The White Paper sets out the Government's conclusions on the general principles which should be applied to radioactive waste management as well as on specific policies. The primary aim throughout has been to ensure that radioactive waste, irrespective of whether it is produced by public sector or private sector operations, is properly managed and that people and the environment are not exposed to unacceptable risks either now or in the future.

The broad policy aims have been revised and updated to emphasise the respective roles of Government, regulators and producers and owners of radioactive waste, as well as to apply the concept of sustainable development and its supporting principles. Radioactive wastes should not be unnecessarily created. Such wastes as are created must be safely and appropriately managed and treated. They must then be safely disposed of at appropriate times and in appropriate ways.

The Environment Bill, which is currently before Parliament, contains provisions which will streamline the handling of applications to dispose of radioactive waste for nuclear licensed sites in England and Wales by making the new Environment Agency the sole authoriser, with MAFF and the Welsh Office as statutory consultees. In Scotland, Her Majesty's industrial pollution inspectorate—to be subsumed within the Scottish Environment Protection Agency—is already the sole authoriser. The White Paper also says that developers of major projects may, if they wish, submit early applications for disposal authorisations. The regulators will then be able to decide on these before major commitments of money and effort have been made.

The White Paper proposes that disposal to geological formations on land is the favoured option for the long-term management of vitrified high-level waste—HLW—once it has been allowed to cool. The Government are putting in hand the development of the necessary research strategy for this. In selecting a site for the disposal of HLW, the Government will take into account the recommendations in the recent report of a joint study group, drawn from members of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee, RWMAC, and the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations, ACSNI, about the need for transparency of decision making and for public reassurance.

For intermediate-level waste, ILW, the Government have decided that there would be no advantage to be gained from delaying the development of the Nirex repository and that, once a suitable site has been found, it should be constructed as soon as reasonably practicable. The precise timetable will depend on the granting of planning consent and compliance with regulatory requirements, including the establishment of a sound safety case. The Government have already promised to hold a full public inquiry into an application for the

repository itself, wherever it may be situated, and sees no reason to depart from this procedure.

In the meantime, waste destined for the repository must continue to be safely stored. Where the demands of safety are overriding, the waste must be treated as necessary to improve storage conditions. In addition, where early treatment of the waste will secure worthwhile safety benefits, or worthwhile economic benefits without prejudicing safety, the general presumption against action which might foreclose future waste management options may be relaxed.

In the light of the genuine anxieties expressed by local residents who feared that they might have been affected by the proposal, the Government have decided not to encourage greater use by the nuclear industry of the "controlled burial" of low-level waste, LLW, at suitable landfill sites. Nevertheless, there are sound economic and radiological grounds for controlled burial and the Government believe that it should continue to be used as a disposal route, particularly for "small users"—such as hospitals, universities, research laboratories and non-nuclear industries—subject to the agreement of the site operators and to the necessary regulatory requirements being met. The Government will issue guidance to the environment agencies on the need to consult local authorities about authorisations for controlled burial.

The Government have adopted a policy of self-sufficiency in relation to the import and export of radioactive waste. Radioactive waste should not be imported to or exported from the UK other than in the circumstances set out in the White Paper. These recognise, among other things, that developing countries should not be precluded from taking advantage of the non-nuclear uses of radioactivity, such as medical diagnosis and treatment, because they do not have the resources to acquire suitable disposal facilities of their own. RWMAC will be asked to advise on what detailed guidance might be prepared for the regulators in implementing this policy.

Since 1976, all BNFL's contracts for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel from foreign companies have included options for the return of operational wastes to the country of origin. In line with the principle of self-sufficiency, the Government's policy remains that the options should be exercised, but they accept that this can be achieved by means of waste substitution—whereby radiologically equivalent amounts of additional HLW are returned in place of LLW and ILW, which would be retained for disposal in the UK—provided there is broad environmental neutrality for the UK. However, the Government consider it prudent not to become irrevocably committed to waste substitution in the absence of appropriate disposal arrangements within the UK. This means that BNFL may substitute for LLW now, but any arrangements it now enters into and implements with its overseas customers for the substitution of ILW must be conditional on confirming, at the time a Nirex repository receives planning permission, that waste equivalence has been properly calculated and provide for the ILW to be returned should the Nirex repository not be established by the time BNFL is contractually obliged to return the wastes.

The White Paper is the first comprehensive statement of Government policy on radioactive waste management for 10 years and I hope that it will be welcomed. I will form part of the guidance given by the Government to the environment agencies that are due to be established next year. It will also provide a clear policy framework for regulating the nuclear industry, which is to be restructured and partially privatised following the nuclear review.

Vehicle Emissions

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* carbon monoxide, *(b)* oxides of nitrogen and *(c)* particulate emissions which will be the product of road transport in 1995. [30123]

Mr. Atkins *[holding answer Monday 3 July 1995]:* For 1995 it has been estimated that road transport will account for *(a)* 89 per cent. of national emissions of carbon monoxide, *(b)* 45 per cent. of national emissions of oxides of nitrogen and *(c)* 24 per cent. of national emissions of particulates.

EDUCATION

Special Education

Mr. Parry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received from the secretary of the Special Educational Needs National Advisory Council, university of Liverpool; what action he intends to take; and if he will make a statement. [32328]

Mr. Forth: The Secretary of State has received one letter recently from the Special Educational Needs National Advisory Council—about training for special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs).

The GEST programme to help local educational authorities with the costs of training teachers of children with special educational needs supports all categories of SEN training, including for SENCOs, enabling LEAs to determine the areas in which they require staff to be trained. Officials are currently undertaking a survey of LEA expenditure under the grant in the 1994–95 financial year.

SENCO training is also available under the GEST programme for the development of school SEN policies. An evaluation of expenditure under the scheme by a sample of LEAs will be undertaken in the autumn of next year.

A full reply will be sent to the advisory council shortly.

Grant-maintained Schools

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to her answer of 30 January, *Official Report*, column *497*, what was the pupil:teacher ratio in grant-maintained secondary schools in January. [32182]

Mr. Robin Squire: The provisional pupil:teacher ration in grant-maintained secondary schools in England in January 1995 was 16:2.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will detail the amount of travel claims

at constant prices in her Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32180]

Mr. Boswell: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Higher Education

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what responses have been received to the consultation on the purpose and future shape and size of higher education; and if she will make a statement. [32194]

Mrs. Gillian Shephard: I am replying with the agreement of my right hon. Friends with responsibility for education in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Altogether, there have been nearly 100 responses to this consultation. I am grateful to all those who took the trouble to send us their views. I am arranging for copies to be placed in the Library.

The responses indicate that, while the objectives identified in the 1963 Robbins report remain broadly valid, there is now more emphasis on higher education's role in underpinning a modern, competitive economy. Both initial and continuing higher education are seen as increasingly important for equipping the work force for higher-skilled work, for coping with change, for handling the rapid proliferation of knowledge, for meeting the challenges of scientific and technical advance and for competing on a global stage.

A number of steps are already being taken which will bear on the responsiveness of higher education to the needs of employers and the economy as a whole. First, the National Council for Vocational Qualifications is consulting in England, Wales and Northern Ireland about the introduction of higher level general vocational qualifications, GNVQs, to complement those at levels 1–3 being developed for schools and colleges. Secondly, the Government have announced a new target for 30 per cent. of the work force to have a vocational, professional, management or academic qualification at NVQ level 4 and above. There are separate comparable targets for Scotland launched last year by the Advisory Scottish Council for Education and Training Targets. Thirdly, the Government have announced that they will consult later in the year about lifelong learning at all levels. Fourthly, the Higher Education Funding Council for England is undertaking a review of postgraduate education, including one-year vocational postgraduate taught courses, for a report in the spring of next year.

The Government will take into account the responses received and the various steps already being taken in developing their higher education policies, and intend to issue a consultative paper. It will cover recent achievements in higher education, the Government's view on the aims and purposes of higher education, an analysis of the demand for higher education as well as for graduates in the economy and the scope for enhancing higher education's response to employment needs, and it will seek views on the future size, shape, and resourcing of higher education. We intend to issue the paper towards the end of this year.

Overseas Students

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what is the value to the United Kingdom economy of students from aborad studying at United Kingdom higher education institutions; and what assessment she has made of the corresponding situation in other European Union countries. [32451]

Mr. Boswell: Recent research by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom estimated the economic value of international higher education students in the United Kingdom at approximately £1 billion. I am not aware of any equivalent studies in other European Union countries.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps she is taking to ensure that United Kingdom universities attract a fair share of well-qualified students from overseas. [32449]

Mr. Boswell: This Department, in conjunction with the other education departments, has recently produced a booklet entitled "Studying in the United Kingdom" which aims to let students, as well as their parents and sponsors, know more about the quality of further and higher education in the United Kingdom. The booklet is being distributed mainly by the Government-funded British Council, which also provides the education counselling service, ECS. The ECS is represented in 11 countries across the world and spends around £3.5 million each year on jointly funded projects with institutions in attracting overseas students to the UK. By 1998, it is planned to expand this service to a total of 18 countries at a cost of £5.5 million per year.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students from overseas not including European Union students come to the United Kingdom for higher education; and what is her estimate of the value to the United Kingdom economy. [32450]

Mr. Boswell: In 1992, the latest year for which figures are available, some 60,200 students from non-European Union countries attended publicly funded higher education institutions in the United Kingdom. A recent research study commissioned by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom estimated the economic value of all international higher education students in they United Kingdom at approximately £1 billion per annum.

Absence (Respiratory Problems)

Mr. Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children under the age of 16 years missed more than 18 school days due to respiratory problems is each of the last five years; if she will provide a regional breakdown of these figures; and if she will make a statement. [31924]

Mr. Forth: This information is not collected centrally.

Out-of-school Provision

Mr. Steinberg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will provide a breakdown of the forms of provision made by each local education authority to children out of school. [31824]

Mr. Forth: This information is not available centrally.

School Meals

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what was the percentage of pupils taking *(a)* free school meals and *(b)* paid for school meals in (i) grant maintained schools and (ii) local education authority schools in the most recent years. [31513]

Mr. Robin Squire: The information requested is shown in the table:

Percentages of day pupils[1] taking free and paid school meals in maintained primary and secondary schools in England

Position in January each year

	LEA maintained schools		*Grant-maintained schools*	
	Free	*Paid*	*Free*	*Paid*
1990	11	32	8	48
1991	12	31	6	45
1992	14	29	7	41
1993	16	28	9	37
1994	18	29	10	38

[1] The number of day pupils who took a school meal on the census day expressed as a percentage of the number of day pupils on roll. A substantial reason for the difference in the respective percentages of pupils eligible for free school meals is the disproportionate number of LEAs with few or no GM schools who have a relatively high proportion of pupils thus eligible.

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many voluntary sector organisations her Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31313]

Mr. Robin Squire: In 1993–94, 141 such organisations received a total of £5.9 million. Comparable information for 1994–95 is not yet available, but I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible with the figures.

EMPLOYMENT

Incomes

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what is the average take-home pay of *(a)* a lone mother and *(b)* both adults in a two-parent family with dependent children. [31590]

Mr. Oppenheim: It is estimated from the winter 1994 labour force survey that the take-home pay for a lone mother, excluding benefits, is approximately £128 per week and the combined take-home pay, excluding benefits, of both adults in a two-parent family with dependent children is £357 per week.

Benefits

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment how many and what percentage of children aged 18 years or under were dependent on people claiming unemployment benefit in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(d)* England in each year since 1979. [31604]

Mr. Oppenheim: Information on those aged 18 and under who are dependent on people claiming unemployment-related benefits is available from the labour force survey for England and Yorkshire and Humberside and for 1992–1994 is shown. Information for 1979–1983 is not available and for 1984–1991 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dependent children aged 18 and under whose head of family is claiming unemployment related benefits[1] (spring each year, not seasonally adjusted)

	England		*Yorkshire and Humberside*	
	Thousands	*Per cent*[2]	*Thousands*	*Per cent.*[2]
1992	1,122	10	129	11
1993	1,219	11	127	10
1994	1,146	10	119	0

Notes:

[1] Unemployment benefit, income support and national insurance credits.

[2] Percentage of all dependent children aged 18 or under.

Source:

Labour Force Survey.

Training

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment how many and what percentage of people aged under 21 years are on Government-supported training schemes in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England. [31591]

Mr. Paice: The information requested is given in the table. Information for those on Government training programmes is not available for York. Information on the age of trainees is not available for all programmes, so the table covers youth training only. The latest available information on the numbers on YT is for March 1995. As the latest information on the population aged under 21 years of age is for mid-year 1994, YT figures for June 1994 are also given.

Youth training and population aged 16-20: Table 1

	North Yorkshire TEC	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*England*
On YT (all ages) in March 1995	2,900	20,700	227,000
On YT (all ages) in June 1994	2,580	23,000	217,200
On YT in June 1994 as percentage of population aged 16-20 mid-year projection	[1]6	[1]8	[1]8

Note:

YT all ages figure will include a small number aged 21 and over.

Sources:

TEC Operating Agreement.

Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys.

[1]per cent.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what percentage of people aged under 21 years leaving Government-supported training schemes in the past 12 months *(a)* obtained a recognised NVQ and *(b)* obtained a full-time job in the field for which they trained in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England. [31592]

Mr. Paice: Information on the age of trainees is not available for all programmes, so the information provided covers youth training only. The latest 12 months for which information is available is for September 1993 to August 1994 leavers. The percentage of people leaving YT during this period who obtained a qualification or credit towards one is 49 per cent. for North Yorkshire training and enterprise council (TEC), 52 per cent. for Yorkshire and Humberside and 52 per cent. for England. Information is not available for York. Information is not separately available at present for recognised national vocational qualifications.

The percentage of people leaving YT between September 1993 and August 1994 who had obtained a full-time job in a field closely related to that in which they received training is given in the table. Regional and TEC level information is not available.

Percentage of those who trained in each occupational area and who got a full-time job, where that job was in an occupational area closely related to their training

Youth Training England September 1993 to August 1994 leavers	*Percentage*
Science and engineering professions	11
Sport/creative/artistic work	n/a
Secretarial work	13
Engineering work	25
Vehicle trades, transport workers and drivers	33
Printing/woodworking work	15
Cooking/food preparation etc.	39
Security work/police/HM forces	n/a
Hairdressing/beautician work	69
Sales work, buying and sales representatives	26
Industrial plant machine work and assembly	15
Nursing and medical technicians	n/a
Clerical work	24
Building/construction work	32
Metal forming, welding and related trades	n/a
Making textiles and clothing	34
Health and childcare work	15
Farming, fishing or gardening work	18
Other elementary work	18

Note:
n/a-not available due to the low number of responses.
Source:
YT follow-up survey.

Merseyside TEC

Ms Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment (1) how many places are provided by Merseyside TEC on the jacuzzi course; and what is the cost per place; [31485]

(2) what arrangements are in place to monitor the success of the jacuzzi course provided by Merseyside TEC; how many people have to date completed the jacuzzi course provided by Merseyside TEC; and what assessment he has made of whether the course is an appropriate use of the training budget; [31487]

(3) what course fees or other payments are paid to Mr. Keith Elliott, course leader of the jacuzzi course, by Merseyside TEC, and to the Liverpool Moat House hotel for providing a venue for the course. [31486]

Mr. Paice: In February 1995, Merseyside training and enterprise council piloted a three-day course aimed at building up the motivation and confidence of long-term unemployed people. The course was designed to prepare them for entry on to a training for work programme by giving practical and positive advice on how to retrain and seek employment. The eight people who completed this course went on to further training, with six gaining work-related qualifications and one obtaining a work placement. The qualifications gained will be valuable, in helping them secure employment.

On the strength of the success of this pilot course, Merseyside TEC contracted with John Moores university to deliver a further three-day course commencing 20 June 1995. Fourteen people completed this course and a similar evaluation of the longer-term benefits is currently under way.

The Department contracts with the TECs for the provision of training. TECs are private sector companies and details of the financial arrangements that they make with subcontractors to organise and deliver training are commercial-in-confidence and not part of the Department's contract.

Through the Government office for Merseyside, the Department has in place regular monitoring arrangements to ensure Merseyside TEC's delivery of its programmes, meets the quality standards laid down in its contract.

Labour Statistics

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment how many and what percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds were in full-time employment in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and Humberside and *(d)* England in each year since 1979. [31605]

Mr. Oppenheim: The information is shown in the table:

Person aged 16 to 18 years old in full-time employment in Great Britain: spring of each year

	Yorkshire and Humberside		*England*	
	Level (000)	*As percentage of total*	*Level (000)*	*As percentage of total*
1984	87	37	786	35
1985	94	40	807	37
1986	79	35	786	36
1987	80	36	778	37
1988	82	39	819	40
1989	59	28	624	31
1990	55	28	527	28
1991	44	23	404	22
1992	38	20	300	17
1993	30	17	225	17
1994	30	17	218	13

Source:
Labour Force Survey.
Note:
Information prior to 1992 has not yet been re-weighted to take account of OPCS revised population estimates and hence there is a dis-continuity in the series between 1991 and 1992.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment how many students have worked or are working *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in the food service industry for the year from summer 1994 to summer 1995. [31706]

Mr. Oppenheim *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* There are no students working full time in the food service industry. The number of students working part-time in this industry in Great Britain for the five quarters to winter 1994–95 is as follows

Number of students working part-time in the food service industry in Great Britain (000s)

	Number
Winter 1993–94	121
Spring 1994	133
Summer 1994	120
Autumn 1994	118
Winter 1994–95	123

Source:
Labour Force Survey—not seasonally adjusted.

Trichloroethylene

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what proposals he has for banning trichloroethylene. [31654]

Mr. Oppenheim: There are no current plans to prohibit the manufacture or use of trichloroethylene.

Mr. O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment how many fatal cases there have been in each of the last 10 years from the use or inhalation of trichloroethylene. [31655]

Mr. Oppenheim: The Health and Safety Executive records the number of fatalities in workplaces in which trichloroethylene is implicated. The information on its database is shown in the table:

Year	*Incidents*
1985	nil
1986	nil
1987	nil
1988	1
1989	nil
1990	1
1991	nil
1992	1
1993	1
1994	1

Workplace Accidents (Children)

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment, pursuant to his answer of 22 June, *Official Report*, column *384*, what plans he has to undertaken an assessment as to the reliability of surveys and official statistics collated and published by his Department, on accidents at work which involve school-age children. [31714]

Mr. Oppenheim: Statistics collected by the Health and Safety Executive give a reliable indication of trends.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will detail the criteria followed by the Health and Safety Executive when deciding whether to prosecute in cases of accidents at work which involve school-age children.

Mr. Oppenheim: The Health and Safety Executive investigates information or complaints concerning the employment of children from local authority child employment officers or any other source. If children are found to be working illegally the employer is told to dismiss the children and their employment is terminated at once. When deciding whether to prosecute, HSE considers the gravity of the offence, the general record and approach of the offender, the deterrent effect and whether the evidence available provides a realistic prospect of conviction.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will investigate the decision taken by the senior Birmingham inspector of the Health and Safety Executive not to prosecute the European African Trading Company for serious breaches of child labour legislation when requested to do so by the Birmingham education authority child employment department. [31715]

Mr. Oppenheim: In August 1994, staff of the Health and Safety Executive's west midlands area office investigated a complaint from Birmingham education authority child employment department about the employment of school-age children. Insufficient evidence was found to support that complaint.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will detail the powers of entry available to investigating and enforcement officers of the Health and Safety Executive *(a)* in all cases and *(b)* in those cases with which involve school-age children. [31713]

Mr. Oppenheim: Section 20(2)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 gives Health and Safety Executive inspectors the power to enter premises at any reasonable time, or at any time in a situation which is or may be dangerous, where there is reason to believe that it is necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect any of the relevant statutory provisions within the field of responsibility of the enforcing authority. That applies to all premises for which HSE is the enforcing authority.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment, pursuant to his answer of 22 June, *Official Report*, column *384*, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the current system whereby an employer may choose to report an accident at work involving a school-age child either to the Health and Safety Executive or to the local education authority. [31717]

Mr. Oppenheim: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1985 require employers to notify forthwith the appropriate enforcing authority, for the purposes of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, in the event of an accident to any person of any age arising out of or in connection with work and resulting in a fatality or major injury. Accidents at work to employees of all ages resulting in an absence of more than three days must be reported within seven days.

Employers do not have a choice of enforcing authority. The enforcing authority will be either the Health and Safety Executive or the local authority for the area and is determined by the nature of the main activity undertaken on the site concerned, according to the provisions of the Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1989.

Training and Enterprise Councils

Mr. Pearson: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what representations he has received from TECs on the length of the TEC operating agreement; and what are their main concerns. [31823]

Mr. Paice: I meet regularly with representatives of training and enterprise councils and I am aware of their concerns about the length and content of the TEC operating agreement. The agreement is necessary for proper stewardship of public funds and is reviewed annually.

Mr. Pearson: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment how many TECs *(a)* are currently financially viable *(b)* are in the low-risk band under financial appraisal and monitoring, *(c)* are delivering the YT guarantee, *(d)* are recognised as an investor in people and *(e)* have an operational business link; and how many meet all five of these requirements. [31752]

Mr. Paice: Of the training and enterprise councils in England the information is as follows:

(a) *Financial Viability*

All 74 TECs are assessed as being financially viable.

(b) *Financial Appraisal and Monitoring Risk Bands*

73 TECs were assessed as being low risk at the end of March 1995. One was assessed as medium risk.

(c) *Youth Training Guarantee*

All TECs deliver the YT guarantee as part of their contractual requirements.

(d) *Investors in People*

50 TECs are currently recognised as Investors in People.

(e) *Business Links*

There are 107 business link outlets covering 34 TEC areas.

Twenty seven TECs satisfy all five requirements.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list all training providers contracted to Hampshire training and enterprise councils at 1 January in each of the past five years and in each case the number of training places provided. [31842]

Mr. Paice: The information is not available in the format requested. Training and enterprise councils are private companies and as such are not required to provide this Department with such information. It is for TECs to decide how they contract with their training providers in order to deliver their contract to the Department. It is up to individual TECs to provide such information direct to hon. Members.

Industrial Tribunals

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment how many industrial tribunal cases were considered since 1979, by region; and how many resulted in a verdict of unfair dismissal. [32312]

Mr. Oppenheim: The number of industrial tribunal cases in all jurisdictions considered at a hearing, by region, since 1986 is shown in the table. The number of successful unfair dismissal cases is also shown.

Region (England and Wales)	*Number of cases heard (1986–1995)*	*Number of successful unfair dismissal cases*
Bedford	8,282	2,284
Birmingham	10,920	2,593
Bristol	8,001	1,788
Cardiff	7,825	1,466
Leeds	13,227	3,204
London North	14,143	2,665
London South	14,237	3,374
Manchester	17,735	4,490
Newcastle	6,609	1,551
Nottingham	7,960	1,922
Southampton	9,633	2,376
Scotland	15,357	3,808

The raw data for individual regions are no longer available for 1985–86, but the aggregated figures for Great Britain for that year are as follows:

Number of cases heard: 13,357

Number of successful unfair dismissal cases: 3,229

Prior to 1985–86, the Department published selected statistics only, and then not on a regular annual basis.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list for each training and enterprise council its budget for 1995–96. [31711]

Mr. Paice: The budgets of individual training and enterprise councils are treated as commercial in confidence between the Department and TECs until the autumn, while TECs complete their negotiations with providers of training.

Health and Safety Executive

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment, pursuant to his answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, column *282*, how the degree of hazard and risk posed to employees and the public is measured if the Health and Safety Executive does not specifically identify high-risk and low-risk premises. [32316]

Mr. Oppenheim: Health and Safety Executive inspectors use their professional judgement to assess the degree of hazard and risk posed to employees and the public when they visit premises. In the field operations division, this assessment is formalised in the inspection rating system referred to in my answer to the hon. Member on 21 June 1995, *Official Report*, column *282*.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what estimated health and safety inspector time, in hours, has been spent *(a)* to date and *(b)* is planned, in preparing the consultative document, "The Role and Status of Approved Codes of Practice". [32314]

Mr. Oppenheim: During the preparation of the consultative document, on "The Role and Status of Approved Codes of Practice", which was published on 14 March 1995, all divisions of the Health and Safety Executive were consulted about its content and accuracy. The divisions contain inspectors engaged in both operational and policy work, some of whom contributed to the development of the consultative document. However, hours spent on this work and the grades of

personnel involved were not recorded and cannot now be estimated. Most of the work done in the preparation of the document was carried out by administrative staff.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment, pursuant to his answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, column *281*, what he estimates the final cost of undertaking the current review of the Health and Safety Executive's field operations division to be. [32315]

Mr. Oppenheim: The current review of the Health and Safety Executive's field operations division will need to take account of the report of the senior management review of the Employment Department group which is being undertaken to follow up the White Paper "Continuity and Change" published last summer. That review is still in progress. It is not possible to anticipate the implications for the field operations division review, or its final cost.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what is the total value of the Health and Safety Executive's field operations division training budget. [32376]

Mr. Oppenheim: The training budget for 1995–96 administered by the field operations division is £678,380. This excludes costs of training for FOD staff provided by the Health and Safety Executive's central training management unit which in 1994–95 amounted to £1,191,165.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what is the total value of the Health and Safety Executive's information technology budget. [32319]

Mr. Oppenheim: The total value of the Health and Safety Executive's information technology budget for 1995–96 is £9,565,000.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will ask the Secretary of State for Education to instruct local education authorities to submit annual accident returns to the Health and Safety Executive. [31761]

Mr. Oppenheim *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1985 currently require employers, including local education authorities, to notify forthwith the appropriate enforcing authority, for the purposes of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, in the event of an accident to any person arising out of or in connection with work and resulting in a fatality or major injury. Accidents at work to employees resulting in an absence of more than three days must be reported within seven days. For local education authorities the enforcing authority in all cases will be the Health and Safety Executive.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will instruct the Health and Safety Executive to prosecute when it is requested to do so by local authority child employment officers. [31762]

Mr. Oppenheim *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* The Health and Safety Executive investigates information or complaints concerning the employment of children from local authority child employment officers or any other source. If children are found to be working illegally the employer is told to dismiss the children and their employment is terminated at once. When deciding whether to prosecute, HSE considers the gravity of the offence, the general record and approach of the offender, the deterrent effect and whether the evidence available provides a realistic prospect of conviction.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994-95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32212]

Miss Widdecombe: The information requested is not held centrally and cannot be provided without disproportionate cost. The total amount of travel and subsistence claims paid by the Employment Department group in 1993–94 was £21,498,330 and in 1994–95 was £20,6111,190.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment, further to his answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, column *286*, on the introduction of jobseeker's allowance, if claimants participating in courses not funded by the Further Education Funding Council, including European social fund courses and non-schedule 2 courses, will continue to be able to participate in up to 21 hours per week of supervised study. [32334]

Miss Widdecombe: It is not the case that the current rules allow unemployed people claiming benefits to study for up to 21 hours a week in all circumstances. The rules allow part-time study. Decisions on whether a course is part-time or full-time are made by independent adjudication officers applying the legislation. This will be carried forward into jobseeker's allowance. In the particular case of courses funded by the Further Education Funding Council the new rule for JSA will be that courses of over 16 guided learning hours per week will be classed as full-time. This rule change will not apply to non-schedule 2 courses or courses part-funded by the European social fund which are not also funded by the FEFC or to higher education where the rules will continue to specify "part-time".

International Labour Organisation

Mr. Corbett: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment on how many occasions the person responsible for auditing the accounts of the International Labour Organisation has declined to sign them in the last 10 years. [32398]

Miss Widdecombe: At no time in the last 10 years has the external auditor declined to sign the accounts.

Mr. Corbett: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment who was appointed and when to audit the accounts of the International Labour Organisation. [32399]

Miss Widdecombe: The UK National Audit Office was first appointed as external auditor of the International Labour Organisation in 1978 and was reappointed in March 1995 for a further four years from April 1996.

Social Affairs Council

Lady Olga Maitland: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will make a statement on the outcome of the EC Social Affairs Council held on 29 June. [32748]

Mr. Portillo: I attended the Social Affairs Council on 29 June in Luxembourg. I was accompanied by my hon. Friend the Minister of State. Two proposed directives were discussed: the draft posted workers directive and a draft directive amending an existing health and safety directive on the use of work equipment. In addition, the agenda included items on the Commission's new social action programme, the follow-up to the employment conclusions of the Essen European Council, proposed programmes on poverty and on Community support for older people, a resolution on older workers and council conclusions on the quality of vocational training.

There was a brief discussion of the posted workers directive. As at previous Councils, however, no agreement was reached and the dossier was passed to the Spanish presidency.

Political agreement was reached on the draft amending directive on the use of work equipment. The presidency text on which agreement was reached represents a considerable improvement over the more prescriptive proposal originally put forward. Agreement was reached unanimously, with the UK and Italy abstaining.

There was an informal exchange of views on the Commission's new social action programme. My hon. Friend the Minister of State welcomed the programme's recognition that tackling structural unemployment and creating new jobs should be the first priority for the Community's social policy but regretted that the programme none the less proposed more unnecessary and burdensome employment legislation. No formal conclusions were reached.

There was a discussion but no agreement on the proposed new poverty programme and on the programme for older people. A resolution on older workers was agreed and Council conclusions on the quality of vocational training were agreed in principle.

The Spanish Minister and Commissioner Flynn outlined the work they proposed during the Spanish presidency to follow up the Essen conclusions. The presidency reported on progress with the draft directive amending the acquired rights directive.

DEFENCE

National Parks (Live Ammunition)

6. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what further steps he will take to protect the public enjoying the national parks for recreational purposes from dangers of unexploded live ammunition. [30560]

Mr. Soames: My Department will continue to warn the public of the dangers associated with military training areas, including those which fall within national parks. Although training areas are well defined and warning notices are placed at main access points, we are constantly looking for ways to improve further the safety of the public.

Naval Refits

16. **Mr. Denham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what circumstances British shipyards will be invited to tender for the refit of Hunt and Sandown class minehunters. [30570]

Mr. Freeman: Under the policy set out by my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 24 June 1993, British shipyards may be invited to tender for individual refits within the allocated programme should circumstances dictate such a need. Such circumstances might include operational factors, the needs of other vessels or failure to agree a fair and reasonable price with a royal dockyard company.

BMARC

17. **Mr. Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what has been the role of his Department's police in the BMARC case. [30571]

Mr. Soames: The role of Ministry of Defence police was to investigate allegations of corruption concerning employees of the Astra group of companies.

Cadet Forces

18. **Mr. Bill Walker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to improve and enlarge the cadet forces; and what account he takes of their contribution towards *(a)* good citizenship and *(b)* service recruiting. [30572]

Mr. Soames: I strongly support the work of the cadet forces, which help very many young people to develop into good citizens. We are pleased that some of them go on to join the services.

European Procurement

19. **Mr. Olner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on European procurement. [30573]

Mr. Freeman: Our procurement policy is based on securing value for money through open competition. European manufactures may bid competitively for the majority of UK defence equipment needs. The UK actively pursues collaboration with our European allies.

Tornadoes (Compensation Claim)

20. **Mr. Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on compensation by Airwork for damage to F-3 Tornados at RAF St. Athan. [30574]

Mr. Freeman: The extent, nature and supporting evidence for the Department's claim have been notified to Bricom. Formal lodgment claim with the company will be made later this year

Whether or not specific legal action has to be taken will depend on the company's response to the claim.

Bosnia

21. **Mr. Harry Greenway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the size and cost of the British defence force contribution in Bosnia; and if he will make a statement. [30575]

26. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the deployment of British forces in Bosnia. [30580]

Mr. Soames: There are currently some 4,400 British troops in the former Yugoslavia as part of UNPROFOR. More than 4,000 additional troops from 24 Airmobile Brigade are on standby to deploy shortly. The cost to date, as at 31 March 1995, of our contribution to UNPROFOR is some £224,000,000. The estimated cost for the currents financial year is in the region of £130,000,000. This figure does not include the cost of deploying 24 Airmobile Brigade as the modalities of funding are still the subject of discussion. In accordance with long established arrangements, my Department recovers these costs from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which in turn seeks reimbursement from the UN.

Test Ban Treaty

22. **Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his assessment of the prospects of concluding a comprehensive test ban treaty for nuclear weapons. [30576]

Mr. Freeman: It should be possible to conclude negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty by the end of 1996. Her Majesty's Government will continue to work actively for that end.

Service Accommodation

24. **Mr. Tyler:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to accelerate the transfer of redundant married quarters and other residential accommodation to civilian use. [30578]

Mr. Soames: My Department has accepted a target to dispose of 4,000 surplus married quarters by the summer of 1996. It has been agreed that properties identified for sale, but on which no sale is in progress after six months, will be auctioned.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many homes were owned at 1 April by his Department or the armed services; and how many were unoccupied on that date in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside, (iv) England and (v) elsewhere. [31586]

Mr. Soames: As at 31 March, the latest date for which figures are available, my Department owned the following dwellings:

	Stock	*Vacant*
York	530	100
North Yorkshire	4,382	538
Yorkshire and Humberside	5,243	776
England	53,789	10,298
Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	20,249	2,931

Of the vacant properties, five in York, 68 in North Yorkshire, 161 in Yorkshire and Humberside, 2,947 in England and 289 in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were in the process of being sold.

Many of the remaining vacant properties were undergoing or awaiting major maintenance work, held for unit deployments, already allotted to families due to move in shortly or formed part of the management margin needed to ensure that accommodation is available for entitled service families.

Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

25. **Ms Roseanna Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the United Kingdom's ambassador to the conference on disarmament in Geneva; and if he will make a statement. [30579]

Mr. Freeman: Officials from my Department are in regular contact with the UK delegation to the conference on disarmament.

Land Mines

27. **Mr. Dunn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next expects to review the United Kingdom's moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land mines which was announced in July 1994. [30581]

Mr. Freeman: The moratorium introduced in July 1994 was reviewed and extended in March of this year. It now prohibits the export of non-self-destruct and non-detectable anti-personnel mines to any country, and the export of any type of anti-personnel mine to countries which have not ratified the UN Weaponry Convention. It will be kept under review, particularly in the light of the forthcoming UN weaponry convention review conference, and of the UK-US proposals for a land mine control programme.

Coulport and Faslane

28. **Dr. Godman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilians are employed at the establishments at Coulport and Faslane. [30582]

Mr. Freeman: As at 1 April 1995, there were approximately 1,500 civilian staff employed at RNAD Coulport and some 2,000 at CSB Faslane.

Arms Exports

29. **Mr. Campbell-Savours:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to amend specific answers to parliamentary questions tabled on matters relating to arms exports with particular reference to weapons contractors. [30583]

Mr. Freeman: Following the statement by my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade on BMARC, Departments have as a prudent measure, started to research some associated areas of defence exports to Singapore. It is too early to draw even tentative conclusions. Any evidence of illegal activity will of course be brought immediately to the attention of Customs and Excise, the independent prosecuting authority for its consideration.

Nuclear Weapons Testing

30. **Mr. Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his French colleagues on testing of nuclear weapons. [30584]

Mr. Freeman: My right hon. and learned Friend has discussed nuclear testing with the French Defence Minister, most recently at their meeting on 27 June.

Mr. Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his French counterpart concerning the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. [30577]

Mr. Freeman: The negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty was one of the wide range of defence matters that my right hon. and learned Friend discussed with Mr. Millon when they met last week.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for further scientific collaboration with the United States of America on nuclear warhead testing. [32414]

Mr. Freeman: We plan to continue to cooperate closely with the US over a wide range of nuclear technical matters, including alternatives to nuclear weapon testing, which will be necessary under a comprehensive test ban treaty.

RAF Air Crew (Self-authorising Status)

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of Royal Air Force air crew hold self-authorising status; what is the lowest rank of officer authorised to grant such status; and what instructions are given to those with the power to grant such status, concerning the criteria to be adopted in granting this status. [31337]

Mr. Soames: The authority to grant self-authorising status is determined by appointment, not rank, and is vested in station commanders who, in most instances, are group captains. Instructions governing the granting of such status are contained in chapter 12 of the Queen's regulations for the Royal Air Force and orders issued by the command authority. The number and rank of officers holding this status is dependent on operational and training requirements and thus subject to constant revision. Consequently, no central records are kept and such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

UN Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days service on UN peacekeeping activities were carried out by United Kingdom military personnel in 1994. [31507]

Mr. Soames: The information requested is not recorded centrally. The number of United Kingdom personnel involved in peacekeeping operations as at the end of each month in 1994 was as follows:

Year	*Number*
January	2,642
February	2,576
March	3,233
April	3,901
May	3,880
June	4,106
July	3,668
August	4,315
September	4,082
October	4,445
November	3,857
December	3,820

In addition, some 3,500 personnel were engaged throughout the year in operations in support of UN Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many United Kingdom military personnel were engaged on UN peacekeeping operations in each year since 1965. [31508]

Mr. Soames: This information is not held centrally.

War Graves

Mr. Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what charge is currently made to spouses for photographs of graves of United Kingdom service men and women killed in action in the far east; and if he will make it his policy that his Department covers or waives the charge made to spouses for such photographs; [31413]

(2) he will commission an inquiry into the charges made to the spouses of service men and women killed in action in the far east for photographs of the graves of such service personnel. [31414]

Mr. Soames: Although my Department does not charge the spouses of service men and women killed in action for photographs of the graves, we understand that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission does charge a nominal fee for such photographs. As an independent body created by royal charter and funded by the Commonwealth countries for which it maintains war graves, this is a matter for the commission.

Argentina (Arms Sales)

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations his Department has received from the Argentinian Government about the possible sale of C130-Ks; and if he will make a statement. [32106]

Mr. Freeman: My Department has received no such representations. The UK embargo on defence sales to Argentina would not permit such a sale.

Music Training

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what areas are covered by those taking courses in higher music training; and what is the average length of each course. [32218]

Mr. Soames: Details of the content and length of higher music training courses provided by the three services are as follows:

Royal Marines:

(1) *Bugler 1 course*

Duration: Five weeks—includes one week of examinations.

Content: Elements–to grade 8, aural and conducting.

(2) *Musician 1 course*

Duration: Eight weeks—includes one week of examinations.

Contents: Elements—to grade 8, conducting, history, harmony to GCSE standards, aural, scoring, course projects and vive voce—all subject matter covered on the course.

(3) *Bandmaster course*

Duration: 52 weeks.

Contents: Aural—minimum A-level standard to degree level, vocationally related, harmony and composition, scoring, history

and analysis, bandmastership, elements—to advanced degree level, extended composition, conducting and viva voce.

(4) *Foreign and Commonwealth students course*

Duration: 10 weeks—includes one week of examinations.

Content: As for the standard musician 1 course.

Army

(1) *Band sergeants course*

Duration: From 14 weeks to 44 weeks depending on individual's music ability.

Content: Instrumental skills, aural, perception (introductory); musical theory techniques; orchestration techniques (introductory); band ceremonial drill.

(2) *Band sergeant majors course*

Duration: Four weeks.

Content: Perform as an accomplished instrumentalist; carry out supervisory management; carry out band administration; learn to conduct ensembles.

(3) *Bandmasters course*

Duration: Three years.

Content: Instruction in instrumental studies; advanced orchestration; advanced history of music; direct a marching band; conduct various ensembles; compositional techniques; keyboard harmony; advanced aural perception; direct church music; present a concert; administer a band.

(4) *Passed school of music*

Duration: Five weeks.

Content: Demonstrate aural perception, arrange for small orchestra; arrange for any prescribed ensemble; present a tattoo project; demonstrate general musical/administrative knowledge.

Royal Air Force

RAF music services offer a part-time based course which divided into five graded levels by rank and each module consists of the following subject areas: drill; instrumental performance; aural studies; orchestration; harmony and counterpoint; history and conducting.

Dog Training

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, for each service, how many centres are involved in dog training and where are they located; what is the estimate of the cost of each centre in the current year; and for each centre how many dogs are estimated to be trained in the current year. [32219]

Mr. Soames: This is a matter for the Defence Animal Centre under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from A. H. Roache to Mr. Stephen Byers, dated 3 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Defence has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question regarding the training of dogs.

Following recent rationalisation, the Canine Wing of the Defence Animal Centre, located at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire, is the only centre involved in the training of dogs for the Armed Forces. It is also able to train dogs and handlers for other government departments. The cost of running the centre in the current year 1995–96 is estimated to be £6.85m which covers cash running costs as well as notional costs for all activities. The cost of canine activities alone is obviously less. It is estimated that 556 dogs will be trained in the current year.

I hope you find this information useful.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32213]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Accounts Agency, who is at present seeking the information requested and will write to the hon. Member shortly with as much as is available. I shall arrange for a copy of his letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Wrongful Dismissal

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what were the legal costs of his Department in each of the last five years for claims of wrongful dismissal. [32097]

Mr. Freeman *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* The information requested is not held centrally. The legal costs of wrongful dismissals could be provided only from records in the Treasury Solicitor's department, once my Department had identified all such cases to them. This could only be done at disproportionate cost and could cover only the last three years, since before that date the Treasury Solicitor did not charge Departments for his services. If the hon. Lady wishes to write to my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence with details of the particular category of information is needed, my noble Friend will be happy to consider the matter further.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Contributions Agency

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is his policy towards direct line telephone contact between the Contributions Agency and members of the public; and what measures he has taken to ensure that public inquiries are dealt with quickly and efficiently; [31040]

(2) what impact the business unit analysis restructuring exercise will have upon the number of local offices of the Contributions Agency; [31038]

(3) what steps he has taken to maintain standards of service to the general public provided by the Contributions Agency in light of the business unit analysis restructuring exercise. [31039]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The administration of the Contributions Agency is a matter for Mrs. Faith Boardman, the chief executive. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mrs. Faith Boardman to Mr. Nicholas Brown, dated 3 July 1995:

As Chief Executive of the Contributions Agency, I have responsibility for answering questions about the operation of the Agency. I have been asked to reply to your questions about the restructuring of the Agency's Field Offices and the steps taken to maintain standards of service, and about telephone contact between the Agency and members of the public. In view of the nature of the questions I have combined the responses.

In 1991 the Agency obtained Ministerial approval to move towards a Field network of some 184 Field Offices supported by 90 Inspector outstations. Current research has shown that there is a need to match more closely Contributions Agency outlets to customer locations. Information has been obtained about density of businesses, density of population and locations of the self-employed. This information has been incorporated into the design of the new network; which will consist of around 100–115 locations; comprising 70–75 Field Offices and 30–40 Inspector outstations. This number of locations is similar to the number used by other Revenue collecting organisations dealing with similar operations.

The proposed changes take account of research among customers which shows, in general, that they prefer to make contact by telephone or correspondence. The latest independent Customer Satisfaction Survey undertaken in November and December 1994 shows that 65% of the Agency's customers prefer to contact the Agency by telephone. This is also in line with the experience of other Revenue collecting bodies. The new network of offices will be supported by a fully integrated telephone system providing easier access for the customer to all parts of the Agency. The Agency's change programme includes installation of Information Technology systems which will improve response times for customers and enable quicker processing of work within local offices.

As at present, customers who are unable to call at proposed outlets or who call at a DSS office which does not have a CA presence will be dealt with either by appointment by CA staff or by Benefits Agency staff under the terms of the National Service Statement.

Staff in CA Field Operations will continue to provide a service to the business community advising them about how to operate the National Insurance scheme. This role will be further enhanced in the new organisation with increased emphasis on education and awareness about all aspects of National Insurance.

Communication with customers and the business community will be ongoing to ensure that all those affected by the changes are kept informed and continue to receive an efficient service from the Agency.

I hope you find this reply helpful. If I can be of any further assistance please let me know.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) how many local offices are proposed under the current restructuring proposals of the Contributions Agency; and how many people will, on average, be served by each office; [31240]

(2) what commitments under the citizens charter apply to the service provided by the Contributions Agency; and what account has been taken of these in the proposed restructuring; [31242]

(3) when he expects to lay before Parliament plans for restructuring the Contributions Agency; [31241]

(4) how many local offices of the Contributions Agency currently exist; and how many people are, on average, currently served by each office. [31239]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The administration of the Contributions Agency is a matter for Mrs. Faith Boardman, the chief executive. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mrs. Faith Boardman to Mr. John Denham, dated 3 July 1995:

As Chief Executive of the Contributions Agency, I have responsibility for answering questions about operational matters relating to the Agency and the National Insurance (NI) scheme. I have been asked to reply to your questions about the numbers of local offices, the current restructuring proposals and our commitments under the Citizens's Charter. In view of the nature of the questions I have combined the responses.

In 1991 the Agency obtained Ministerial approval to move towards a Field network of some 184 Field Offices supported by 90 Inspector outstations. There are currently 267 Field locations. The Agency maintains over 60 million individual contributors accounts, and deals with over 1.2 million employers and 2.4 million self-employed people. Figures of the number of customers currently served by each location are not kept, and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. The number of staff currently employed varies considerably between locations from 4 or 5 in some outstations to over 50 in some offices which have already successfully consolidated their operations in one location.

Current research has shown that there is a need to match more closely Contributions Agency outlets to customer locations. Information has been obtained about density of businesses, density of population and locations of the self-employed. This information has been incorporated into the design of the new network which will consist of 9 Regional units outside London, each containing roughly equal numbers of businesses and population. London will be served by 3 Regional units. There will be around 100–115 locations, comprising 70–75 Field Offices and 30–40 Inspector outstations. This number of locations is similar to the number used by other Revenue collecting organisations dealing with similar operations. The exact number of locations has yet to be finalised and it is not possible to give an average figure of the number of people to be served by each location, but overall the effect will be to move to larger numbers which will allow staff to be used more flexibility to meet customer needs and to develop their specialised functional skills and expertise more fully. The locations have been chosen to combine the business needs of the Agency with those of the customer.

The Agency is fully committed to the Citizen's Charter principle and its standards of service are laid down in the Agency's Contributor's and Employer's Charters. These are:

—to reply to complaints sent to the Chief Executive within 10 days

—to respond to enquiries within 10 days

—to reply to a request for a visit within one week and then visit within the next two weeks

—to keep waiting time at our reception points to a maximum of 30 minutes

—to arrange customer appointments within two weeks

The changes proposed by the restructuring take account of research among customers which shows, in general, that they prefer to make contact by telephone or correspondence. This is also in line with the experience of other Revenue collecting bodies. The latest Customer Satisfaction Survey undertaken in November and December 1994 shows that 65% of the Agency's customers prefer to contact the Agency by telephone. The new network of offices will be supported by a fully integrated telephone system providing easier access for the customer to all parts of the Agency. The Agency's change programme includes installation of information technology systems which will improve response times for customers and enable quicker processing of work within local offices.

As at present, customers who are unable to call at proposed outlets or who call at a DSS office which does not have a CA presence will be dealt with either by appointment by CA staff or by Benefits Agency staff under the terms of the National Service Statement. Implementation of the proposed changes within the Agency will result in an improved service provided by Field offices.

Changes within the Contributions Agency which may impact on customer groups and staff are only introduced after careful consideration of representations received. As re-organisation of a Next Steps Agency is an operational matter this falls within my delegated authority as Chief Executive, I understand that the Secretary of State has no plans to lay the Contributions Agency's restructuring proposals before Parliament.

I hope you will find this reply helpful. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what assessment he has made of the role played by the local field officers of the Contributions Agency in monitoring the state of the informal economy and ensuring local employers implement properly the national insurance system. [31116]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The administration of the Contributions Agency is a matter for Mrs. Faith Boardman, the chief executive. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mrs. Faith Boardman to Mr. Llew Smith, dated 3 July 1995:

As Chief Executive of the Contributions Agency, I have responsibility for answering questions about operational matters relating to the National Insurance (NI) scheme. I have been asked to reply to your question about the monitoring role played by the Agency's local field officers.

The Agency is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law on NI matters. To achieve this, NI inspectors, based in our Field Operations local offices, carry out surveys and educational visits to employers to ensure correct administration of the NI scheme. The Secretary of State sets a target for the number of surveys to be undertaken each year. There is currently a re-structuring exercise within our Field Operations which enhances the educational role played by the Agency with increased emphasis on education and awareness of the scheme, the intention being to help our customers "get it right first time".

Proposals for the future include the setting up of dedicated teams specifically to investigate aspects of the informal economy.

I hope you find this reply helpful. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Social Fund

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was *(a)* the monthly amount and *(b)* the total amount of (i) community care grants and (ii) crisis loans in the (1) Paisley, North and (2) Paisley, South parliamentary constituencies which resulted from the flood of December 1994; if he will show in respect of community care grants the average amount awarded to claimants in each constituency, and in respect of crisis loans *(A)* the average amount and *(B)* the average weekly repayment which is sought from claimants in each constituency; and if he will make a statement. [31408]

Mr. Roger Evans: The administration of the Social Fund is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member with such information as is available.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Gordon McMaster, dated 3 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about Community Care Grant (CCG) and Crisis Loan (CL) applications received by the Benefits Agency from people affected by the flooding in the Paisley North and Paisley South constituencies.

I should first of all point out that constituency and Benefits Agency (BA) District boundaries do not correspond exactly. Paisley North and Paisley South constituencies are served by the BA District of Renfrew. The information is therefore given for this District.

Information relating to the average weekly repayment of CLs made is not readily available. It could only be obtained by examining every loan award made to the flood victims. In general, if an applicant has no commitments then the repayment rate for a loan is normally 15% of the amount of the Income Support applicable in an individual case. This is intended to ensure both that the repayment rate is appropriate to an applicant's individual circumstances, and that the loan is repaid in the shortest reasonable time. It is also intended to prevent the repayments being too high or going on for too long. However, if the applicant has commitments or debts, rates of 10% or 5% may be applied and even lower rates may be used in extreme cases. Full regard is taken of the applicant's income and any existing commitments when decisions on the rate of repayment are made.

At Annex A I have provided information on the total and average amounts of CCG and CL awards made in the District as at 31 January 1995. After this date only one other application was received from a victim of the flood. The application was made in June and resulted in a CCG award of £869.

I hope you find this reply useful.

Annex A: Details of community care grant and crisis loan awards made by Renfrew district as at 31 January 1995

District	*Benefit type*	*Number of awards*	*Amount awarded £*	*Average award £*
Renfrew	Community care grant	424	80,951	190.92
	Crisis loans	99	13,159	132.92

Mr. Ian Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what recent consideration he has given the operation of the social fund review process. [32852]

Mr. Evans: I am pleased to announce that an improvement to the social fund review process will be made and will take effect from 4 September 1995. The change is designed to streamline the stages of the first tier of the social fund review procedures and will improve the speed and the efficiency with which cases are handled within the Benefits Agency district offices.

Applicants will, of course, continue to retain the right of an independent review by a social fund inspector.

Income Support

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many and what percentage of children aged 18 years or under were living in families dependent on *(a)* income support or supplementary benefit and *(b)* family credit in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England in each year since 1979. [31584]

Mr. Roger Evans: Such information as is available is set out in the tables. Income support data for York cannot be provided. Reliable data for North Yorkshire is available only from 1993 following an increase in the sample size. Information for the statistical region of Yorkshire and Humberside is only available from 1991. Family credit data cannot be provided for the specified regions.

Number of dependents in families in receipt of income support in North Yorkshire and Yorkshire and Humberside

	North Yorkshire	*Yorkshire and Humberside*
May 1991	—	252,000
May 1992	—	269,000
May 1993	20,000	286,000
May 1994	22,000	287,000

Notes:
See table 1 for notes:
Source:
Income Support Statistics Local Authority Tables Annual/Quarterly Enquiries May 1991–May 1994.

Year	Number of dependants in families in receipt of Supplementary Benefit/Income Support in England	Population in England aged 18 and under	Percentage	Number of dependants in families in receipt of Family Credit in England	Population in England aged 18 and under	Percentage
1979	784,000	12,939,000	6.1	—	12,939,000	—
1980	937,000	12,805,000	7.3	—	12,805,000	—
1981	1,294,000	12,644,000	10.2	—	12,644,000	—
1982	1,495,000	12,462,000	12.0	—	12,462,000	—
1983	1,573,000	12,264,000	12.81	—	12,264,000	—
1984	1,704,000	12,061,000	4.1	—	12,061,000	—
1985	—	11,927,000	—	—	11,927,000	—
1986	1,870,000	11,812,000	15.8	—	11,812,000	—
1987	1,880,000	11,708,000	16.1	—	11,708,000	—
1988	1,830,000	11,631,000	15.7	459,000	11,631,000	3.9
1989	1,783,000	11,576,000	15.4	519,000	11,576,000	4.5
1990	1,793,000	11,518,000	15.6	552,000	11,518,000	4.8
1991	2,110,000	11,533,000	18.3	609,000	11,533,000	5.3
1992	2,454,000	11,556,000	21.2	687,000	11,555,000	5.9
1993	2,725,000	11,589,000	23.5	825,000	11,589,000	7.1
1994	2,748,000	11,589,000(5)	23.7	940,000	11,589,000(5)	8.1

Notes:

1. Income support replaced supplementary benefit in 1988.
2. Data for 1985 not available.
3. Family credit figures are only available from 1988 to date.
4. A dependant is aged up to 18. Income support figures included those 19 in full time education who live with their parents.
5. Population figures are not yet available for 1994. 1993 figures have been used.
6. Family credit statistics for York, North Yorkshire and Humberside are not readily available.

Source:

Supplementary benefit/income support statistics annual enquiries 1979–1993
Income support statistics quarterly enquiry May 1995.
Family credit statistics May 1988–May 1994.
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys mid year estimates 1979–1993.

Ms Liz Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social security how many people claimed income support by *(a)* gender and *(b)* age, for each region in England in the last month for which figures are available and (ii) in the same month in each year since 1990. [32391]

Mr. Evans: I have placed a copy of the available information in the Library.

Pilot Correspondence

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what changes he is considering in the organisation and pattern of replies he expects to make in respect of specific individual cases brought to his attention by hon. Members. [31943]

Mr. Hague: Hon. Members continue to receive individual replies to queries raised on behalf of their constituents. A pilot correspondence unit was set up in April to test whether centralising the management of staff dealing with departmental correspondence would help provide a better service to Ministers, hon. Members and the public.

The pilot project will last until the autumn. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will then consider the results of the exercise, with regard to quality of replies and efficiency of the service provided.

Mr. Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what plans he has to extend the central correspondence section pilot scheme; what representations he has received concerned the pilot; and what means of consultation will be carried out with hon. Members before any further extension of the scheme is made. [31925]

Mr. Hague: The pilot correspondence unit was set up in April to test whether centralising the management of staff dealing with Departmental correspondence would provide a better service to Ministers, hon. Members and the public.

The pilot project will last until the autumn. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will then consider the results of the exercise, with regard to quality of replies and efficiency of the service provided. In the first three months of operations the unit has replied more than 2,000 inquiries from hon. member. There have been no complaints about the quality of the replies received.

We have received several letters from hon. Members in response to the letter sent by Mr. Sheldon of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants.

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what steps his Department is taking to pilot a project to standardise replies to inquiries from hon. members; and if he will make a statement. [31665]

Mr. Hague: None. The Department's pilot project aims to provide hon. Members with replies which answer their specific concerns. Ministers personally approve and sign all replies to hon. Members on policy issues.

The arrangements whereby agency chief executives reply to hon. Members about cases involving their constituents are not altered.

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into

contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31305]

Mr. Hague: The information requested is in the table.

Year	*Number of organisations paid grants*	*Number of contracts*	*Total value* £
1993–94	83	85	17,001,000
1994–95	85	87	18,591,000

The figures quoted show actual expenditure. Figures rounded to nearest £000.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if a person signing on as unemployed will have this held against him in an appeal for incapacity benefit. [31662]

Mr. Hague: No.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what plans he has to ensure that a claimant denied incapacity benefit further to appeal, and in turn denied benefit as being classed as unemployed, as the claimant could be deemed unfit for work, will not be left without any money. [31663]

Mr. Hague: The decision on incapacity for work applies across the benefit system. People found capable of work, including those who appeal against that decision, are entitled to claim unemployment benefits if they are available for and actively seeking work. People who are not looking for work may claim income support while waiting for their appeal to be heard.

Mr. Alan Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if people who appeal against a decision that they are capable of work and claim income support pending their appeal will have their full incapacity benefit reinstated for the period between the date of the original decision and the date of the appeal decision. [32040]

Mr. Hague: If a social security appeal tribunal uphold an appeal against a decision that a person is capable of work, any incapacity benefit withheld pending the tribunal decision will be paid. Where income support has been in payment for the period covered by the backdated incapacity benefit, this payment will be reduced to take account of the income support actually paid.

Mr. Alan Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what advice will be given to claimants appealing against a decision that they are capable of work concerning their benefit entitlement pending a tribunal hearing. [32041]

Mr. Hague: In addition to advice from officials in Benefits Agency and Employment Services Offices, everyone found capable of work after application of all work test will be sent, with their decision notice, leaflet IB 203 which explains the help available in finding work and claiming benefits.

Mr. Alan Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security of those people in 1995–96 whom he expects to appeal against a decision that they are capable of work, how many he estimates will, *(a)* sign on as unemployed and *(b)* claim income support without signing on. [32043]

Mr. Hague: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Bradley) on 7 March, *Official Report*, column *168*.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if claimants in receipt of incapacity benefit may retain benefit entitlement for up to four weeks during which they are on a training for work scheme on a trial basis; and if they are deemed to be available for work. [32332]

Mr. Hague: Availability for work is not an issue. Incapacity Benefit claimants who undertake training for work receive an allowance equivalent to their benefit entitlement and additional £10. This is not incapacity benefit. Linking provisions ensure that if there is a break in incapacity benefit entitlement of less than eight weeks, claimants can return to the rate of benefit in payment before the break. For claimants on the short-term higher or long-term rates who attend training courses, this is extended to two years, provided that they are incapable of work when the training course ends.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what help will be offered to a claimant denied the jobseeker's allowance for up to 26 weeks because that claimant had been dismissed from his job. [31664]

Mr. Roger Evans: Sanctioned claimants in vulnerable groups—those with children, those who are sick or pregnant or those who have a sick or pregnant partner, or who have caring responsibilities—may have access to hardship payments, at a reduced rate of jobseeker's allowance throughout the period of the sanction. Claimants who are not in vulnerable groups will receive no benefit for the first two weeks or a sanction; thereafter they may receive hardship payments if they can demonstrate that they or their partner would otherwise suffer hardship.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if, on the introduction of jobseeker's allowance, *(a)* carers receiving invalid care allowance and *(b)* claimants in receipt of severe disablement allowance will continue to be able to study up to 21 hours per week on education and training courses without prejudice to benefit entitlement. [32333]

Mr. Evans: We are considering what changes, if any, need to be made to invalid care allowance and severe disablement allowance when jobseeker's allowance is introduced.

National Insurance

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the total amount of *(a)* employers' and *(b)* employees' national insurance contributions collected for each of the last 10 fiscal years expressed (i) at April 1995 prices and (ii) as a percentage of total Exchequer income. [32335]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information requested is in the table.

	UK contribution income April 1995 prices (£ billion)		Percentage of UK Exchequer income	
	Employees' NICs	Employers' NICs	Employees' NICs	Employer's NICs
1985–86	18.85[1]	19.50	8	8
1986–87	19.29	20.85	8	9
1987–88	20.50	22.24	8	9
1988–89	21.42	23.65	8	9
1989–90	18.73	22.92	7	9
1990–91	16.75	23.06	7	9
1991–92	16.81	23.17	7	9
1992–93	16.44	23.65	7	10
1993–94	16.89	24.11	7	10
1994–95[2]	18.59	24.88	7	10

[1] Includes national insurance contributions by self-employed for which separate data are available only from 1986–87.
[2] Estimate.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32175]

Mr. Hague: Information is not available in the form requested. The total amount of UK travel claims at constant 1994–95 prices in this Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 is as follows:

1993–94: £25,609,547

1994–95: £24,582,379

Residential Care Homes

Sir John Gorst: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what are the latest figures for the number of residents of care or nursing homes with preserved rights to the higher limits of income support, whose total entitlement to social security benefits does not meet their care home fees; and how many such residents are in care homes in the London borough of Barnet. [32528]

Mr. Roger Evans: There are 57,000 people in Great Britain with preserved rights to the higher levels of income support whose total entitlement to income support does not meet their care home fees. Some of these residents may have disregarded benefit, income or capital which could be used to meet any shortfalls.

Figures are not available for the London borough of Barnet.

Source:

Income Support Quarterly Statistical Enquiry: May 1994.

Former Foreign Heads of State

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what special rules apply to former heads of state of foreign countries in respect of social security payments; and what is the current procedure for handling claims from such persons. [32517]

Mr. Hague: None. Any claim from such a person is handled in the normal manner.

WALES

Housing Renovation Grants

Mr. Wigley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales in what circumstances district councils found allocating money received by them from his Department towards housing renovation grants without following the procedure laid down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 are liable to repay monies to his Department; on what extent local councillors are surchargeable for dereliction of duty in those circumstances; and who is responsible for instigating surcharges. [31275]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The question of recovery would depend on the circumstances of each case. Local authorities are required to certify that their in-year and final claims meet the legal requirements and that they will notify the Welsh Office of any irregularity. The Welsh Office can suspend or abate on-account payments where it is notified of suspected fraud or other irregularity and can adjust overpaid contributions under a determination made under section 132 of the Local Government and Housing Act.

Section 19 of the Local Government Finance Act 1982 provides that if it appears to the district auditor that any item of account is contrary to law, he may apply to the courts for a declaration to that effect. If such a declaration is made, the courts have various powers including the surcharge of those responsible for authorising the expenditure.

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts within (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31298]

Mr. Richards: In 1993–94 369 voluntary organisations in Wales received grants totalling £18.6 million from the Welsh Office, mainly in direct funding, although some indirect grants are also included. Details of outturn expenditure for 1994–95 will be available shortly and I will write to the hon. Lady.

Details of the number of voluntary organisations contracting with the Welsh Office and the value of these contracts are as follows:

Year	Number	Amount £
1993–94	44	543,100
1994–95	51	672,940

Trunk Road Improvements

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what were the specific environmental reasons for the withdrawal of the A40 Treffgarne Rocks improvement from the road improvement programme in Wales. [31376]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: "Roads in Wales: 1994 Review" identified priority routes and schemes on which resources are to be concentrated. This followed a review of all schemes in the trunk road programme, taking account of

economic, traffic and environmental considerations. Against this background it was judged that the scale of the previously envisaged improvement at Treffgarne Rocks could not be justified. The relevant environmental factors included the landscape, river habitats, protected species, wildlife and the river itself within the Treffgarne Rocks, Gorge and Tors sites of special scientific interest.

Mr. Alan W. Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list for each trunk road improvement scheme listed in table 1 of the 1986 Welsh Office document, "Roads for Wales: the 1990s and Beyond", and described as expected to start between January 1988 and December 1990 *(a)* the actual starting date for construction, *(b)* the completion date and *(c)* the cost; and if he will also list those schemes that have been abandoned or where there is still no definite starting date. [31848]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The information requested is set out as follows. A revised forward programme was published in "Road in Wales: 1994 Review", and updated in the Welsh Office's departmental report 1995, Cm 2815.

Scheme	*Start*	*Finish*	*Cost £ million*
M4 Baglan Lonlas—split as follows:-			
M4 Earlswood–Lonlas	March 1990	February 1993	57
M4 Briton Ferry–Earlswood	January 1992	December 1994	58
M4 Baglan-Briton Ferry	August 1992	December 1994	39
M4 Brynglas Tunnels and Malpas relief road	September 1991	May 1995	88
A5 Pont Padog approaches	In "Longer Term consideration" pool of forward trunk road programme		
A5 Halfway bridge reconstruction	In "Longer Term consideration" pool of forward trunk road programme		
A5 Glyn Bends–Tynant–Dinmael School	May 1994	1995–96	8
A40 Llandeilo northern bypass	February 1994	December 1994	4
A40 Carmarthen eastern bypass	In "Programmed" pool of forward trunk road programme		
A40 Whitland bypass	March 1995	1996–97	10
A55 Aber improvement	February 1993	September 1994	12
A55 Pen-y-Clip tunnels	November 1989	March 1994	109
A55 Rhaullt Hill improvement	May 1990	April 1992	17
A465/A40 Abergavenny western bypass	In "Longer Term consideration" pool of forward trunk road programme		
A465 Glynneath-Aberdulais improvement	January 1994	Autumn 1996	76
A470 Pentrebach-Cefn Coed improvement	May 1994	Spring 1997	53
A470 Gelligemlin-Llanelltyd diversion	Under £3 million scheme. Start of work planned in 1997–98		
A470 Improvement of A470 and A44 at their junctions south of Llangurig	April 1990	July 1991	2
A483 Llandeilo eastern bypass	In "In preparation" pool of forward trunk road programme		
A483 Welshpool relief roads	September 1991	July 1993	19
A483 Chirk bypass	April 1989	April 1991	12
A487 Cardigan bypass	August 1989	December 1990	12
A487 Caernarfon-South of Port Dinorwic	Withdrawn in January 1993 in favour of Caernarfon Eastern Bypass		
A487 Port Dinorwic bypass	July 1992	March 1994	14
A487 Seiont bridge and approaches	Withdrawn from major scheme programme in January 1993. Now Pont Seiont Contract (under £3 million scheme). Work started February 1995		
A494 Mold bypass	January 1991	October 1992	18
A4042 Penperlleni bypass	In "Longer Term consideration" pool of forward trunk road programme		
A4042 Llantarnam bypass	January 1994	1995–96	17

Infertility Treatment

Mr. Jon Owen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many Welsh health authorities fund the ICSI infertility treatment either within their own hospitals or as extra-contractual referrals. [23504]

Mr. Richards: This information is not held centrally.

Schools Performance

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the total number of schools in Gwent included in examination league tables published in each year; and what was the position in those tables of Gwent's grant-maintained schools. [32104]

Mr. Richards: The information on individual school performance is published in county booklets which lists schools in alphabetical order by postal district. They are not presented in ranked position. The total number of schools in the booklet for Gwent is as follows:

	1992	*1993*	*1994*
LEA maintained schools	28	29	30
Grant-maintained schools	2	2	3
Special schools	5	2	1
Independent schools	1	3	3

Assisted Places Scheme

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, if he will list those schools which pupils have *(a)* left and *(b)* moved to under the assisted places scheme in the past five years; and what were the numbers of placements for each school per year. [32105]

Mr. Richards: Information about pupil movements is not available centrally. The numbers of new assisted places taken per year for each school is as follows:

School	Academic year 1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95
Christ College	20	18	18	18	17
Howells School, Denbigh	12	15	15	11	14
Howells School, Llandaff	26	28	28	28	29
Llandovery College	11	11	11	11	9
Monmouth School	20	23	24	25	24
Monmouth School for Girls	10	14	13	11	14
Penrhos College	12	10	13	13	12
Rydal School	12	11	9	10	11
	123	130	131	127	130

Rent and Council Tax

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, if he will list for each district council the amount of *(a)* uncollected rent from council houses, and *(b)* uncollected council or poll tax; and what percentage in each case the uncollected amounts represent of the annual revenue. [32525]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The available information is given in the following table. The uncollected amounts are as at 31 March 1995 and are given as percentages of income for the financial year 1994–95.

Uncollected community charge and council tax and council house rent arrears

	Council house rent arrears[1]		Uncollected community charge[2]		Uncollected council tax[3]	
	£000	As a percentage of rental income	£000	As a percentage of collectable debit[4]	£000	As a percentage of collectable debit[4]
Alyn and Deeside	256	3.5	919	10.8	633	7.4
Colwyn	52	1.4	969	14.8	701	10.7
Delyn	104	1.4	554	7.3	355	4.7
Glyndwr	188	5.1	529	10.7	726	14.7
Rhuddlan	95	2.4	923	15.3	422	7.0
Wrexham Maelor	386	1.9	2,393	19.9	1,067	8.9
Carmarthen	189	3.5	342	5.0	516	7.6
Ceredigion	115	2.2	785	9.0	798	9.2
Dinefwr	118	3.6	495	11.1	579	13.0
Llanelli	286	2.5	752	9.2	702	8.6
Preseli Pembrokeshire	205	2.6	263	3.3	653	8.2
South Pembrokeshire	169	3.7	332	6.6	455	9.1
Blaenau Gwent	160	1.0	938	18.0	626	12.0
Islwyn	123	1.3	660	13.4	379	7.7
Monmouth	182	2.0	628	6.6	646	6.8
Newport	912	3.7	2,656	22.6	1,064	9.1
Torfaen	1,030	4.1	1,006	13.4	473	6.3
Aberconwy	93	2.4	432	6.8	243	3.8
Arfon	113	1.4	851	17.2	326	6.6
Dwyfor	56	2.6	103	2.8	190	5.2
Meirionnydd	41	1.4	256	6.1	318	7.5
Ynys Mon	176	2.1	823	10.9	477	6.3
Cynon Valley	81	1.1	542	11.0	270	5.5
Merthyr Tydfil	91	0.9	471	11.2	287	6.8
Ogwr	475	3.1	1,652	12.4	905	6.8
Rhondda	247	3.3	414	7.9	210	4.0
Rhymney Valley	614	3.5	1,168	14.6	475	5.9
Taff Ely	391	3.7	987	10.6	632	6.8
Brecknock	93	2.4	242	4.9	239	4.8
Montgomeryshire	108	2.6	225	3.7	291	4.7
Radnorshire	30	1.4	55	1.9	140	4.9
Cardiff	719	2.1	4,417	17.8	3,173	12.8
Vale of Glamorgan	265	2.4	937	8.1	728	6.3
Port Talbot	113	1.3	363	7.9	389	8.4
Lliw Valley	179	2.4	310	4.7	368	5.6
Neath	240	2.7	670	9.9	355	5.3
Swansea	1,060	4.0	2,413	12.4	1,770	9.1

[1] Cumulative arrears of council house rent, for current and former tenants, at 31 March 1995. Rental income is for the financial year 1994–95.

[2] Provisional. Includes amounts written off between 1 April 1990 and 31 March 1995 and cumulative arrears at 31 March 1995.

[3] Provisional. Includes amounts written off between 1 April 1993 and 31 March 1995 and cumulative arrears at 31 March 1995.

[4] The collectable debit is the total amount billed for the financial year 1994–95 net of council tax benefit.

Grant-Maintained Schools

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the total *(a)* capital payments and *(b)* revenue payments made to grant-maintained schools in Wales in each year since their status changed. [32109]

Mr. Richards: The information is as follows:

Year	*Capital payments* £	*Revenue payments* £
1991–92	—	1,101,134
1992–93	500,367	4,540,974
1993–94	6,195,751	15,112,114
1994–95	7,349,278	22,869,252

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32179]

Mr. David Hunt: Expenditure figures for travel claims are not available in the form requested. Separate figures are available for rail and air travel and for road travel by private car—mileage allowance—or by hire cars as follows:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
Rail and air	427,557	420,552
Road	564,658	550,900

Euro-Freight Terminal

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he expects to announce a decision on funding the proposed Euro-freight terminal in south-east Wales. [32393]

Mr. David Hunt: As soon as practicable.

Nurses' Pay

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many trusts and directly managed hospitals in Wales have made pay offers to the nursing professions; and if he will list those which have not yet made offers. [32392]

Mr. David Hunt: All NHS trusts and directly managed units in Wales which employ nurses have made pay offers.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 5 July 1995

TREASURY

Manchester Ship Canal

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has had from Manchester city council about protecting the Manchester ship canal from the possible impact of proposals related to a proposed landfill tax; what reply he is sending; and if he will make a statement. [30995]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: The leader of Manchester city council, Councillor Graham Stringer, who is also director of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., wrote to my right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor on 15 June about the effect of the landfill tax on dredging operations. I replied on 4 July. Copies of the correspondence have been placed in the Library.

Brent Spar

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Government tax subsidy was being allowed to the Shell UK company in respect of the sinking of the Brent Spar oil platform; whether it will still be eligible if the platform is broken up on land; whether this tax subsidy will be available to other oil companies when they wish to dispose of their offshore oil rig platforms; and if he will make a statement. [31500]

Sir George Young: As with all other taxpayers, the tax affairs of Shell UK Ltd. are confidential between it and the Inland Revenue. Companies operating in the North sea can claim relief against petroleum revenue tax and corporation tax on the cost of decommissioning their offshore oil installations. In the case of Brent Spar, Shell has already announced publicly that it will forgo the tax relief on any additional cost if onshore disposal were to proceed.

Information Technology Contracts

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, column 263, if he will place in the Library details of those specific provisions designed to guarantee continuity of service in information technology contracts in the event of a transfer to another supplier or divert to the Department. [31849]

Sir George Young: I am unable, on the grounds of commercial confidentiality, to place in the Library any details of specific provisions contained within the contract between Inland Revenue and EDS.

The negotiation of the contract between Inland Revenue and EDS took place in full recognition of the importance of the various constituent elements that ensure the continuity of service provided to the Inland Revenue and to taxpayers. Specific provisions have been made in the information technology service agreement to secure the computer equipment, software and expertise to ensure continuity of service throughout the contract period and beyond.

Conditionally Exempt Works of Art

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the average length of time that items from the register of conditionally exempt works of art spend out on loan to public galleries, museums and other similar places to which the public have access. [31870]

Sir George Young: The information requested is not available as there is no statutory power to require owners to keep statistics of such of their conditionally exempt items as are on loan to public institutions to which the public has access.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many works of art which are conditionally exempted from inheritance tax or capital transfer tax are currently out on loan to public galleries and museums. [31872]

Sir George Young: The information requested is not available as there is no statutory power to require owners to keep statistics of such of their conditionally exempt works of art as are on loan to public galleries and museums.

Council Tax Appeals

Mr. Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals lodged by council tax payers are still waiting to be dealt with for each district value office in England and Wales. [32326]

Mr. Nelson: The number of council tax appeals still outstanding as at 31 May 1995 with each listing officer in England and Wales is shown in the tables:

Council tax valuation list
Valid proposals outstanding as at 31 May 1995
Region: Wales and West

Local office	*Outstanding*
Bangor	1,147
Barnstaple	951
Bath	1,372
Bristol	1,922
Cardiff	1,163
Carmarthen	2,186
Exeter	2,900
Gloucester	1,575
Merthyr Tydfil	547
Newport	331
Plymouth	2,131
St Austell	2,061
Swansea	700
Taunton	2,033
Wrexham	1,095
Regional total	22,114

Council tax valuation list
Valid proposals outstanding as at 31 May 1995
National summary

Region	*Outstanding*
Central	22,991
East	24,785
London	20,787
North	13,018
South	34,593
Wales and West	22,114
Total E and W	138,288

Council Tax valuation list
Valid proposals outstanding as at 31 May 1995
Region: Central

Local office	*Outstanding*
Birmingham	946
Bolton	845
Burnley	1,164
Chester	1,245
Coventry	835
Crewe	1,459
Kidderminster	856
Lancaster	981
Lichfield	912
Liverpool	1,364
Manchester	625
Preston	997
Rochdale	465
Salford	580
Sandwell	138
Shrewsbury	1,526
Stockport	862
Stoke	1,027
Warrington	1,442
Warwick	1,339
Wolverhampton	273
Worcester	3,110
Regional Total	22,991

Council Tax Valuation List
Valid Proposals Outstanding as at 31 May 1995
Region: East

Local Office	*Outstanding*
Bedford	1,361
Cambridge	1,319
Chelmsford	1,751
Colchester	2,695
Derby	1,262
Grimsby	1,153
Ipswich	2,113
Leicester	1,003
Lincoln	1,172
Loughborough	1,132
Mansfield	761
Northampton	1,138
Norwich	2,404
Nottingham	956
Peterborough	1,608
St. Albans	1,523
Stevenage	1,434
Regional Total	24,785

Council tax valuation List
Valid proposals outstanding as at 31 May 1995
Region: London

Local office	*Outstanding*
Barking	809
Bromley	2,895
Camden	1,173
City	1
Ealing	1,441
Enfield	3,638
Greenwich	1,771
Harrow	1,391
Islington	1,270
Kensington	1,517
Lambeth	1,616
Redbridge	1,215
Tower Hamlets	476
Westminster	294
Wimbledon	1,280
Regional total	20,787

Council tax valuation list
Valid proposals outstanding as at 31 May 1995
Region: North

Local office	*Outstanding*
Alnwick	526
Bradford	1,382
Carlisle	734
Doncaster	577
Durham	560
Halifax	1,233
Harrogate	1,395
Hull	1,470
Leeds	868
Middlesbrough	483
Newcastle	317
Sheffield	454
Sunderland	352
Ulverston	1,030
York	1,637
Regional total	13,018

Council tax valuation list
Valid proposals outstanding as at 31 May 1995
Region: South

Local office	*Outstanding*
Aylesbury	2,260
Basingstoke	2,135
Bournemouth	2,216
Brighton	1,206
Chatham	1,470
Dorchester	1,481
Eastbourne	2,000
Folkestone	1,546
Guildford	1,456
Oxford	1,891
Portsmouth	965
Portsmouth (IOW)	651
Reading	2,558
Reigate	3,028
Southampton	2,077
Swindon	2,414
Tunbridge Wells	2,663
Worthing	2,576
Regional total	34,593

Biodiesel

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what were the reasons for the United Kingdom's opposition to EC draft 8205/94, calling for changes in excise duty on biodiesel. [32162]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: At the meeting of the Council of Economic Ministers—ECOFIN—in Luxembourg on 19 June, my right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor noted that the proposal has been considered by the Council from time to time without making any real progress, and he suggested that the Council should not expend further effort on it.

The Government continue to find the proposal set out in EC draft 8205/94 unattractive for several reasons. We are opposed in principle to granting long-term tax subsidies to products which would not be financially viable without them. We are not persuaded of the agricultural, environmental or energy policy benefits of subsidising biofuels, and we remain concerned about the effect of tax subsidies on the market for by-products.

World Bank and International Monetary Fund

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Government have to progress the recommendations for reforms to the World bank and International Monetary Fund, as outlined in the background paper to the communiqué presented at the recent G7 meeting in Halifax, Canada. [32209]

Mr. Nelson: The proposals agreed at Halifax among the G7 for reform of the World bank and International Monetary Fund now need to be discussed by the entire membership of those institutions. The G7 recognises that changes will need broad support among the membership. The Canadian Finance Minister has written on behalf of the G7 to every governor of the two institutions, commending the proposals and seeking comments. The Government hope they will now be considered by the executive boards of the World bank and International Monetary Fund, and at the autumn ministerial meetings of the interim and development committees. The Government will also discuss the proposals in other forms, and bilaterally with other non-G7 countries. I hope, for example, that we will be able to have a useful exchange of views at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' conference in October.

Investors' Compensation Scheme

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement about the investors' compensation scheme. [33089]

Mr. Nelson: The Treasury has today laid a minute to inform the House that the Treasury has issued a guarantee to the investors compensation scheme, ICS, for up to £17 million.

This wholly exceptional course, which I very much regret the need to take, results from the current judicial review case brought by Sun Life. This challenges certain regulatory rules made by the Securities and Investments Board, SIB, and the Personal Investment Authority, PIA, which is one of the self-regulating organisations recognised by SIB under the Financial Services Act 1986. Mr. Justice Collins yesterday gave Sun Life leave to proceed with the case, which will be heard on 23 to 24 August.

Because of the uncertainty created by this case, the PIA has decided, after taking legal advice, that it would not be prudent to levy its members to provide finance for the ICS as it would normally do. For similar reasons, the ICS board has also decided not to levy PIA members direct. Without the Treasury guarantee, the ICS would be unable to borrow commercially because of the same uncertainty about its ability to raise funds to service and repay loans.

The Treasury guarantee is for £17 million, slightly more than the £15.8 million ICS levy on the PIA, to cover interest which may be incurred and the legal costs associated with the court case.

The Treasury will review the need for the guarantee when the judicial review case is resolved after the hearing in August. In the meantime, the ICS will continue to operate normally, making offers of compensation to investors who have lost as a result of defaults by investment firms, and declaring firms in default in order to trigger claims, as usual. Investors can be confident that this important safety net will continue to function properly, underpinning investor protection.

Extra-Statutory Payments

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 9 June, *Official Report*, column *339*, if he will list the agreed specific delegation level agreed with each Department for authorising extra statutory payments. [28663]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory *[holding answer 15 June 1995]:* The existing specific delegation levels agreed with the main Departments for authorising extra statutory and extra regulationary payments are set out. The limits reflect a number of considerations, including the nature of the payments that are likely to occur on a particular Department's programme and whether satisfactory ground rules can be agreed for dealing with them. The limits are kept under regular review.

Department	*Delegation*
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Full delegation
Cabinet Office (including OPSS)	£5,000
Crown Prosecution Service	Full delegation
Customs and Excise	Full delegation
Ministry of Defence	£250,000
Department for Education	[1]Full delegation
Department of Employment	£5,000
Department of Environment	
—Local Government	£10,000
—Housing and other Environmental Services	£25,000
Export Credit Guarantee Department	£250,000
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	£5,000
Home Office (including prisons)	£20,000
Department of Health (including NHS Executive)	[2]Range from no delegation to full delegation depending on nature of expenditure item concerned.
Inland Revenue	Full delegation
Intervention Board	£100,000

Department	*Delegation*
Lord Chancellor's Department	Full delegation
Department of National Heritage	£25,000
Northern Ireland Office	£50,000
Overseas Development Administration	£5,000
Property Holdings	No delegation
Property Services Agency Services	No delegation
Scottish Office	Range from £750 to full delegation depending on programme.
Department of Social Security	[1]£250,000
Department for Trade and Industry	No delegation
Department of Transport	
—National Roads	£300,000
—Other	£1,000
Treasury	£1,000
Welsh Office	Range from no delegation to full delegation depending on programme.

Notes
[1] Except on teachers' superannuation.
[2] Except payments made under Section 5(3) of the NHS Act 1977.
[3] Except the Child Support Agency.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Attorney-General how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95 and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31301]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service paid a grant of £20,000 to the Nuffield Foundation for its interpreter project in 1993–94 and a further grant of the same amount to the same organisation in 1994–95. The service entered into contracts with Shaw House and the Royal London Society for the Blind in 1993–94 under the sheltered placement scheme, the value to the organisations being the employment of disabled persons by the service.

NATIONAL HERITAGE

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey : To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts within (i) 1993–94; and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31307]

Mr. Dorrell: In 1993–94, my Department paid grants to 32 voluntary sector organisations. The total value of these grants was £832.420. In 1994–95, the number of organisations was 31 and the total value of grants was £874,731. My Department has no contracts with voluntary organisations.

Hotel Grading Schemes

Mr. Pendry: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many hotels are included in the English tourist board's crown grading scheme; and how many are covered by the schemes operated by the Royal Automobile Club and the Automobile Association. [32031]

Mr. Dorrell: The English tourist board crown classification and grading scheme covers 11,500 serviced establishments. This includes 3,500 hotels. The Automobile Association scheme in England covers approximately 5,500 serviced establishments, of which 3,019 are hotels. The Royal Automobile Club scheme includes some 5,200 serviced establishments throughout Britain, 3,400 of which are hotels.

Travel Claims

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance. [32171]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* The information requested for the Department of National Heritage, including the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, Royal Parks Agency, Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts and Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England is:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
Car mileage allowance	30,734	23,452
Bicycle allowance	0	0

The amount of travel claims by public transport could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Justices of the Peace (Cumbria)

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will list the number of justices of the peace on the bench in each of the divisions in the county of Cumbria by *(a)* political or non-political affiliation and *(b)* by gender. [32617]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The number of justices of the peace in each division of the county of Cumbria by *(a)* political or non-political affiliation and *(b)* by gender, on the latest information available, is:

	Conservative	*Labour*	*Liberal Democrat*	*Independent*	*Not known/other*	*Male*	*Female*
Appleby	11	1	0	0	0	6	6
Carlisle	33	19	12	3	11	44	34
Furness and District	37	8	3	3	9	34	26
Kendal and Lonsdale	16	6	8	2	5	22	15
Keswick	5	1	0	0	2	4	4

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Independent	Not known/other	Male	Female
South Lakes	11	2	2	0	1	7	9
Penrith and Alston	8	1	5	1	3	10	8
West Allerdale	22	8	2	1	5	23	15
Whitehaven	12	5	3	4	5	16	13
Wigton	7	1	1	0	1	6	4

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31299]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Lord Chancellor's Department paid grants to two voluntary sector organisations in 1993–94 and to two in 1994–95. The total value of the grants was £195,000 in 1993–94 and £188,000 in 1994–95.

The Legal Aid Board, a non-departmental public body, paid grants to 10 voluntary sector organisations in 1993–94 and 60 in 1994–95. The total value of the grants was £942,000 in 1993–94 and £2,377,000 in 1994–95. In addition, one law centre and one advice agency with a solicitor received payments under franchise contracts on a case-by-case basis.

Repossessions

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many *(a)* proceedings were commenced to repossess homes and *(b)* homes were repossessed in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England in each year since 1979. [31597]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Hugh Bayley, dated 5 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about repossession proceedings.

The following charts show the total number of possession actions commenced in York County Court; North Yorkshire; Yorkshire and Humberside and England since 1987 (the earliest year for which data is available). As not all actions result in the issue and execution of a warrant of possession, I am unable to tell you how many properties were repossessed in this period. I have therefore included in the tables the number of possession orders made. I should add that the figures for 1994 are provisional and are consequently liable to revision to take account of any late amendments.

York County Court

	Actions commenced	Orders made
1987	335	269
1988	327	238
1989	368	193
1990	505	314
1991	577	455
1992	456	405
1993	346	316
1994	358	274

North Yorkshire

	Actions commenced	Orders made
1987	637	475
1988	527	393
1989	661	401
1990	1,030	622
1991	1,430	1,005
1992	1,119	1,032
1993	845	764
1994	764	564

Yorkshire and Humberside

	Actions commenced	Orders made
1987	7,777	5,684
1988	7,304	5,046
1989	7,380	4,053
1990	10,434	6,794
1991	14,146	10,844
1992	10,280	8,934
1993	8,447	7,432
1994	7,619	5,474

England

	Actions commenced	Orders made
1987	74,048	45,836
1988	67,729	44,711
1989	86,246	50,267
1990	137,714	98,546
1991	176,414	135,490
1992	134,574	119,805
1993	109,734	99,388
1994	83,516	73,943

Asylum

Mr. Gareth Wardell: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many cases relating to political asylum in the United Kingdom were heard at the immigration appeals tribunal; and how many such appeals were successful in each of the last five years. [31316]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Figures on asylum appeals were not kept prior to the enactment of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993. A separate figure for appeals by the Home Office was not kept until January 1994. The table sets out the available information:

Immigration appeal tribunal: Political asylum appeals

Year	*Heard*	*Allowed*		*Remitted for rehearing by a different adjudicator*	
1993 (August–December)	21	5		11	
		Claimant	*Home Office*	*Claimant*	*Home Office*
1994	285	8	3	192	13
1995 (January–May)	151	11	3	90	3

SCOTLAND

Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the total amount of funding allocated by his Department to Highlands and Islands Enterprise excluding objective 1 figures for development initiatives in *(a)* Argyll and Bute and *(b)* Kintyre for the years 1993–94 and 1994–95. [30446]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The allocation of funds to specific local enterprise company areas for economic and social development purposes is the responsibility of Highlands and Islands Enterprise. I have asked the chairman to write to the hon. Member.

Temazepam

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what are the criteria which he applies to reschedule drug substances under the terms of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; how temazepam relates to these criteria; and if he will make a statement; [31395]

(2) what further plans he has to reschedule temazepam; and if he will make a statement. [31383]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: No rescheduling may occur under the 1971 Act except after consultation with, or on the recommendation of, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. The council is required to have regard to misused drugs which are having, or appear to it to be capable of having, harmful effects sufficient to constitute a social problem. The council has recommended that temazepam should be controlled under schedule 3 of the relevant regulations rather than schedule 4. The Government's careful consideration of this recommendation is continuing.

As my right hon. Friend the Lord President of the Council announced on 10 May, we are taking steps to impose safe custody requirements on manufacturers and wholesalers, and are engaged in consultations with a view to banning the prescribing by general practitioners under the National Health Service of the soft gelatin gel-filled temazepam capsules.

Health Care International

Mr. Tony Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he was informed that an employee of Scottish Enterprise had been given leave of absence to become international marketing director of Health Care International in Clydebank; what reports he received on the outcome of the appointment in terms of contracts for the hospital; and when he received these reports. [31347]

Mr. Kynoch: The granting of leave of absence to an employee of Scottish Enterprise was an operational matter for that body, in respect of which there was no requirement for my right hon. Friend to be informed or to receive reports.

Mr. Stefan Kock

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland from whom Strathclyde police have received representations on the firearms incident involving Mr. Stefan Kock in Scotland in January 1990. [32197]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Strathclyde police have received no representations in relation to this incident.

A74

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will keep the name M74 when the A74 construction to motorway standard is completed; and if he will make a statement. [32613]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* My right hon. Friend announced in November 1991 that, on completion of the A74 upgrade, the new motorway will be designated as the M6. However, until the whole route is upgraded, the upgraded section of the route will retain the "74".

My right hon. Friend recently announced that we intend to seek tenders later this year for the last section in Scotland to be upgraded between Cleuchbrae and Paddy's Rickle on a design, build, finance and operate basis and this should see the completion of the upgrade by the end of the century.

Council Workers (Redundancy)

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland for what maximum period of time compensation schemes for council workers made redundant by local government reorganisation operate. [32185]

Mr. Kynoch: The compensation scheme provided under the Local Government (Compensation for Redundancy or Premature Retirement on Reorganisation) (Scotland) Regulations 1995 for any local authority employee made redundant as a result of local government reorganisation will be available until 31 March 1997. The period will, however, be subject to review in December 1996.

Tongue School, Sutherland

Mr. Maclennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what action he proposes to take in respect of the school board of Tongue school, Sutherland. [32657]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: None.

Mr. Maclennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what procedures apply when the parents of children attending a school indicate by a clear majority of all parents on successive occasions at a properly constituted meeting with the school board that they have no confidence in the board. [32677]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Under section 30 of the School Boards (Scotland) Act 1988, whenever the requisite number of parents so request in writing, the school board must hold a meeting to enable parents to make inquiries and to discuss matters relating to the activities of the board and to make resolutions relating to the activities of the board. The board is required to consider any resolution passed at such a meeting. The requisite number of parents for the purpose of requesting a meeting is 30, or a number of parents equal to at least one quarter of those who were entitled to vote at the most recently held elections of parent members, whichever is the less.

Water Supplies

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he expects to publish the report on the 10-year review of demands and resources for public water supplies in Scotland. [33091]

Mr. Kynoch: A report has been published today by the Scottish Office Environment Department describing the outcome of the Department's third long-term assessment of demands and resources for public water supplies in Scotland carried out during 1994, previous studies having been done in 1973 and 1984. I have arranged for copies of the report to be placed in the Library.

The report shows that, at the national and regional levels, resources are more than sufficient to meet average demands for public water supplies beyond 2016, the period covered by the study.

Strathclyde Passenger Transport Area

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what boundary he intends for the new Strathclyde passenger transport area following his recent consultation exercise. [33092]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Following careful consideration of the responses received to the consultation exercise, we have concluded that the Strathclyde passenger transport area should cover the existing Strathclyde zonecard travel area, and the whole of the present Strathclyde supported rail network. This will ensure that the Strathclyde passenger transport authority and executive can carry out effectively its local transport responsibilities in Glasgow and the surrounding areas.

I have placed maps illustrating the new area in the Library of the House. I am making arrangements to lay the necessary designation order before Parliament.

ENVIRONMENT

Pollution

Mr. Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the average proportion in poor quality air of pollution that comes from *(a)* car fumes and *(b)* industrial emissions. [31412]

Mr. Atkins: Each episode of poor air quality has its own individual characteristics, so it is not possible to directly attribute the relative contribution that road traffic or industrial emissions contribute to air pollution incidents across the UK. However, detailed emissions inventories of the overall pollutant contributions of the various sectors are available. The table shows the proportions for NOx, SO_2, CO and black smoke for London in 1991.

Percentage air emissions by sector for London in 1991

Figures are all rounded to one decimal place.

Per cent.

	Pollutant				
	NOx	*SO_2*	*CO*	*CO_2*	*Black smoke*
Road transport	75.4	24.5	98.6	32.5	95.2
Domestic	6.5	0.7	0.2	31.4	0.1
Commercial and industrial	11.8	72.6	0.2	29.9	2.4
Other transport	6.4	2.1	1.0	6.3	2.4

Home Improvement Grant

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what estimates he has of the number of home owners wishing to take up a home improvement grant who are unable to do so because of inability to afford the temporary accommodation required while the work in question is carried out; what assistance is available to them; and if he will make a statement. [31906]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: The legislation for house renovation grants makes no specific provision to cover the costs of temporary accommodation for applicants while works are in progress. Local authorities may rehouse applicants under their discretionary powers in the Housing Act 1985, but correspondence to my Department suggests that many grant applicants prefer to stay in their homes while the works are carried out.

Ponds

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what measures his Department takes to protect and clean ponds; and what is the budget for these projects. [32160]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Department supports a number of environmental grant schemes, such as countryside stewardship, which include provision for the creation or restoration of ponds. Under the Countryside Act 1968, local authorities can carry out pond restoration and creation, and under the rural action scheme, which is sponsored by the three countryside agencies, grants are available for environmental improvements, including the clearing of ponds. With regard to water quality, many ponds will be subject to the general pollution control functions of the National Rivers Authority.

Ponds are protected through a number of schemes and mechanisms, including some via the site of special scientific interest system under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is not possible to identify within the overall budgets the amount spent on protecting and clearing ponds.

Landfill Waste Disposal

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will give details of the landfill waste disposal sites in Great Britain where environmental pollution problems have arisen in the last 10 years. [32439]

Mr. Atkins: Landfill waste disposal operations in Great Britain are regulated by the waste regulation authorities. Information about pollution incidents at individual landfill sites is held by the responsible authority. A sample study carried out in 1990 by the Association of County Councils identified 11 cases in the previous 15 years where remedial action to landfill sites was required by waste regulation authorities.

Asbestos

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what are the guidelines followed by Government Departments in the use of asbestos or asbestos products in any building work taking place within Government-owned properties; and if he will make a statement. [32671]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Department of the Environment, through the Property Holdings central advice unit, formerly property advisory services division, provides Government Departments with guidelines in the "Guide to Estate Management Responsibilities" and the "Housekeeping Guide for Accommodation Managers".

Drinking Water Inspectorate

Mr. Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when the fifth annual report of the Drinking Water Inspectorate will be published. [32850]

Mr. Atkins: The Drinking Water Inspectorate published its fifth annual report today. Once again, it shows that drinking water in England and Wales is of a very high quality. In 1994, 99.3 per cent. of the 3.5 million tests carried out by water companies on drinking water met the relevant standard, compared with 98.9 per cent. in 1993.

The report provides a detailed picture of water quality in England and Wales which has been tested against the stringent criteria of the water quality regulations which incorporate the limits in the EC drinking water directive.

The inspectorate also published today two leaflets for consumers. "How Good is Your Drinking Water?", summarises the main points of the report. "About Your Water Company" gives brief details of the quality of drinking water supplied by individual water companies.

Copies of the report and leaflets have been placed in the Library of the House.

Manchester Ship Canal

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what representations he has had from Manchester city council about protecting the Manchester ship canal from the possible impact of proposals related to a proposed landfill tax; what reply he is sending; and if he will make a statement. [30994]

Sir Paul Beresford: The leader of Manchester city council, Councillor Graham Stringer, who is also a director of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., wrote to my right hon. Friend about the potential impact of the proposed landfill tax on the company's dredging operations on 15 June. I replied on Tuesday 4 July. Copies of the correspondence have been placed in the Library.

Vanadium

Mr. Alan W. Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is estimated total annual United Kingdom emissions of airborne vanadium pentoxide: and what are the main sources. [32003]

Mr. Atkins: Emissions of heavy metals into the atmosphere are not speciated by individual chemical compound type. This is because of analytical difficulties in determining the composition of fly ash on other than an elemental basis. There is, therefore, no information available on emissions of V_2O_5. Emissions of vanadium are not yet included in the national atmospheric emissions inventory. However, the Department's research programme includes work on vanadium and the results will be reported later this year.

Mr. Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the World Health Organisation's guideline for the maximum permitted concentration of vanadium in the atmosphere; and what is the range of concentrations found near *(a)* power stations, *(b)* oil refineries and *(c)* other industrial sources of airborne vanadium. [32004]

Mr. Atkins: The WHO air quality guideline for vanadium for a 24-hour averaging period is $1\mu gm^{-3}$—1000 ng m^{-3}.

The Department of the Environment has been monitoring airborne concentrations of vanadium at three rural sites at Chilton, Oxfordshire; Styrrup, Nottinghamshire and Wraymires in Cumbria since 1972 and at one urban site in Central London since 1976.

The results from the central London site are given as annual averages for each year since 1976. The results from the rural network are given in summary form with the central London site given for comparison.

Annual average vanadium concentrations in air (μgm^{-3}) in central London

Year	*Central London*
1976	50
1977	33
1978	48
1979	22
1980	20
1981	24
1982	23
1983	19
1984	32
1985	14
1986	14
1987	14
1988	16
1989	15
1990	20
1991	15
1992	12

Vanadium concentrations in air (ng m^{-3}) at urban and rural sites in the UK[1]

	London	*Chiltern*	*Styrrup*	*Wraymires*
mean 1972–81	[1]33	11	14.7	7.2
mean 1982–91	18.4	6.1	8.1	3.3

[1] "Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics" HMSO, No. 17, 1995.

Tenants

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what guidance is issued to local authorities concerning the method of consultation with representatives of their tenants; and if he will make a statement. [32221]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: Guidance to local authorities about consultation with tenants is provided in:

"Large-scale voluntary transfers guidelines", December 1993;

"Tenant Involvement in Housing Management", March 1994; and

"Housing Strategies: Guidance for local authorities on the preparation of housing strategies", 1995.

Redundant Council Workers

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment for what maximum period of time compensation schemes for council workers made redundant by local government reorganisation operate. [32186]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: In England, entitlement to payment of redundancy compensation arising from reorganisation can arise in the period from the date the relevant reorganisation order is made to 18 months after reorganisation takes place.

Supermarkets

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what consideration is given by his Department to the location of large supermarkets in urban areas; what criteria are used in respect of car parking and the effects on other shopping areas; and if he will make a statement. [32357]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Government's policy is to encourage supermarkets to locate in existing shopping centres in urban areas. Where this is not possible, an edge-of-centre site should be sought, within easy walking distance of the centre, to ensure it is accessible by a choice

of means of transport. Applications for out-of-centre supermarkets should be assessed in terms of their likely impact on existing centres, their accessibility by a choice of means of transport and their effect on overall car use. With regard to their impact on existing centres, they should be assessed in terms of its impact on trade, future investment in the centre and on the authority's strategy for the centre.

Car parking standards for large supermarkets vary from authority to authority and reflect the location of the store. In London, suburban out-of-centre stores tend on average to have one space per 10 sq m of gross floor space; inner suburban out-of-centre stores one space per 13 sq m, whereas town centre stores can mange comfortably with 1 per 20 to 25 sq m gross floor space. This reflects their respective reliance on the car for access. The Government are proposing a general review of car parking standards, including those for large food stores.

Planning Applications

Mr. Rendel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list those planning authorities whose standing orders make provision for members of the public to present their case in person during the discussion of planning applications. [32655]

Sir Paul Beresford: My Department does not collect this information.

Statutory Joint Authorities

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment in what circumstances the power to establish a statutory joint authority under section 21 of the Local Government Act 1992 will be available to him. [33090]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: The Government's policy is that local authorities which are granted unitary powers should be capable of undertaking the full range of functions entrusted to them. Our guidance to the Local Government Commission reflects this aim and we have carried it through in our decisions.

Under Section 14(5)(c) of the Local Government Act 1992, the Local Government Commission may recommend that joint arrangements are made in relation to local authority functions in an area affected by structural change. It has recommended joint arrangements for structure planning in a number of areas. We have endorsed those recommendations and look to the authorities concerned to make voluntary arrangements accordingly.

Section 21 of the Local Government Act 1992 contains back-up powers for the Secretary of State to establish a statutory joint authority where voluntary arrangements have not been made, or have broken down. Previous ministerial statements about joint working have suggested that the power granted by this section may be exercised in any case where, having regard to the recommendations of the commission, the Secretary of State had requested authorities affected by a structural change order to carry out a function jointly and those arrangements had failed or had failed to materialise.

We are now advised that this power will be available only in those cases where joint working is to take place between authorities all of which have acquired the relevant function as a result of a structural or boundary change. It will not be available where, for example, a new unitary authority has been asked to work with an existing county council.

This new understanding does not affect local authority powers to enter into voluntary joint arrangements. We continue to support the recommendations of the commission in respect of joint working on structure plans by unitary authorities and existing county councils. We look forward to the authorities concerned making suitable voluntary arrangements for the maintenance of an up-to-date strategic planning framework for each of the joint structure plan areas indicated. Following reorganisation, the Secretary of State's powers of intervention in the structure plan process under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 remain unchanged. He will consider the availability and use of those powers in the usual way in order to achieve effective strategic planning.

Environment Council

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the outcome of the Environment Council on 22 and 23 June. [33218]

Mr. Gummer: I represented the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg held on 22 and 23 June. Agreement was reached, subject to a parliamentary scrutiny reserve, on four key measures.

I was able to support the common position the Council reached on the proposal for integrated pollution prevention and control. This measure follows a UK initiative and will lead to an integrated approach to pollution control decisions taking into account emissions to all environmental media. Overall, the directive will raise environmental standards across Europe and help to provide a level playing field for UK industry.

There was a short discussion of the proposal for a directive on ambient air quality assessment and management and a common position was agreed unanimously. I joined colleagues from all member states in welcoming the proposed directive which will help to tackle the problems of air pollution across Europe and is in line with existing UK practice.

A common position was also achieved by unanimity on the proposal for the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances—amended Seveso directive. The proposal closely reflects UK philosophy and practice.

The Council reached a common position unanimously on a new regulation to replace the existing Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species measures. I welcome the regulation which will require all member states to control trade in endangered species more effectively. The Council also agreed to a UK proposal to

retain the existing 1981 regulation banning commercial imports of whale products.

Agreement was also reached on Council conclusions on the follow-up to the Berlin conference of the parties to the climate change convention. I made it clear during the discussion that the UK continued to oppose a mandatory EU wide carbon energy tax. There were discussions on many other issues, including the disposal of disused oil installations, motor vehicle emissions and the proposal for a directive on the ecological quality of water.

Dounreay

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement about the explosion which occurred in May 1977 at the Dounreay nuclear power plant station near Thurso in Scotland; what is his assessment of the damage caused by the explosion; and what are the environmental consequences both then and now. [32431]

Mr. Page: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland on 13 June 1994, *Official Report*, column *472*, to a question from my hon. Friend the Member for Aberdeen, South (Mr. Robertson) and the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow, Maryhill (Mrs. Fyfe) on 29 June 1995, *Official Report*, column *747*.

HEALTH

First-time Mothers (Publications)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals she has to alter the distribution and budget for the publications "Birth to Five" and "The Pregnancy Book". [32161]

Mr. Sackville: None. Both the publications are published by the Health Education Authority and issued free to all first-time mothers.

Foetuses

Mr. Patten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to her answer of 22nd June, *Official Report*, column *344*, what action she will now take following the completion of research for her Department in May into foetuses feeling pain while being aborted. [32506]

Mr. Sackville: No action is called for.

Market Testing

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to extend the current market testing programme to core clinical services. [32359]

Mr. Sackville: The selection of clinical services for market testing is a matter for local management. Guidance was set out in EL (95)29, issued in April, copies of which are available in the Library.

Physiotherapy

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if physiotherapy is categorised as a core clinical service. [32220]

Mr. Bowis: The national health service does not use the term "core clinical services". The nature of physiotherapy services required in hospital or community health services is a matter for purchasers to determine in collaboration with providers, taking account of appropriate professional advice.

Suicides

Mr. Caborn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records her Department keeps of the numbers of doctors and other health workers who commit suicide while working in the NHS, together with information on the causes of death. [32226]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

Glaucoma

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures are in place to monitor the success rate for the detection of glaucoma; and if she will make a statement; [32351]

(2) if she will make a statement as to what measures are planned to improve the detection rate of glaucoma. [32341]

Mr. Sackville: Although the Government recognise the importance of the early detection of glaucoma, this is primarily a matter for the medical and optometric professions. However, we are currently working with the relevant professional bodies to improve the quality of detection and referral of eye disease, including glaucoma.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence she has indicating whether there is a universal standard of testing for glaucoma by optometrists across the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [32353]

Mr. Malone: Screening for diseases of the eye, of which glaucoma is one, is part of the routine sight test procedure carried out by optometrists and ophthalmic medical practitioners. We have no reason to believe that standards of sight testing vary.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for glaucoma, per family health service authority, for each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [32350]

Mr. Sackville: Figures in the form requested are not available centrally.

From "Morbidity Statistics from General Practice" it is estimated that, in England, about 101,000 patients suffering from glaucoma were treated by general practitioners during the 1991–92 financial year. Figures are not available for the other years requested.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that all people with a higher risk of developing glaucoma obtain all three available tests for the condition from an optometrist; and if she will make a statement. [32352]

Mr. Malone: Close relatives aged 40 or over of diagnosed glaucoma sufferers are automatically entitled to a free national health service sight test, to enable their eyesight to be monitored at no cost to themselves. The examination techniques used in carrying out a sight test are a matter for the clinical decision of the practitioner.

Asthma

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to empower health authorities and commissions to treat the causes as well as the effects of asthma; and if she will make a statement. [32346]

Mr. Sackville: The causes of asthma are unclear, but it is likely that both generic and environmental factors, including exposure to a range of possible allergens, are involved. Work on investigating possible causes is continuing. We have no plans to increase the powers of health authorities and commissions.

National Blood Authority

Ms Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the total amount being spent by the National Blood Authority on national new donor day. [32111]

Mr. Sackville: The National Blood Authority anticipates that the estimated expenditure on local publicity is likely to be around £15,000.

NHS Ethnic Health Unit

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will consider funding the development of medical education materials for the ethnic health unit for use at both undergraduate and postgraduate level; and if she will make a statement. [32342]

Mr. Malone: The national health service ethnic health unit was established to work with health authorities and trusts to secure greater benefit for people from ethnic minorities, from the implementation of national and local health strategies. The unit is not responsible for medical education and training. This is a matter for the General Medical Council, the medical royal colleges and the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice.

Health Services (Access)

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned or examined into racism as a factor in access to health services; and if she will make a statement [32344]

Mr. Malone: The Department of Health and other Government Departments have funded the fourth national survey of ethnic minorities, which is being conducted by the Policy Studies Institute. The health section of the survey examines ethnic minorities' access to health services and factors which may facilitate or deter access. The experience of ethnic minorities will be compared with that of whites.

The Department of Health has also commissioned the Refugee Council to undertake a survey to identify the barriers that prevent access to health services for refugees in the United Kingdom.

Multi-cultural Health Care

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will consider appointing to each national health service executive region mangers with responsibility for implementing and monitoring her Department's policy on multi-cultural health care; and if she will make a statement. [32343]

Mr. Malone: After abolition of regional health authorities, it will not be appropriate for public health functions to be managed directly by national health service executive regional offices. Ownership of these functions lies at local level, reflecting the responsibility of health authorities for the overall health of the population. The NHS ethnic health unit works with health authorities and NHS trusts to secure greater benefit for minority ethnic people from the health service.

The priorities and planning guidance for 1996–97, published by the NHS executive in June 1995, requires health authorities and trusts to pay particular attention in seeking and addressing the concerns of those with special needs. The performance management arm of the NHS executive regional offices hold health authorities to account for the implementation of national policies, including the development of services for minority ethnic people.

Medical Training

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what formal education in the health and health care of different cultural groups is available to the medical profession; and if she will make a statement. [32345]

Mr. Malone: The General Medical Council is responsible for the standard of undergraduate medical education. Its most recent recommendations, published in "Tomorrow's Doctors" in December 1993, recognise the need for matters concerning ethnicity to be addressed within the undergraduate medical curriculum.

The medical royal colleges are responsible for the content of postgraduate medical training and education.

The body responsible for general practice vocational training—the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice—expects general practitioners to be knowledgeable about the social, cultural and environmental factors which contribute to health and illness. The specific curricular arrangements to achieve these attributes are the responsibility of regional postgraduate organisations. Further training and experience are provided as part of the continuing education of practitioners.

Dental Services

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received indicating an increase in emergency consultations by patients with general practitioners concerning dental problems; and if she will make a statement. [32347]

Mr. Malone: Two general practitioners have written to the Department of Health on this subject over the past year. Under their terms and conditions of service, GPs are not required to provide dental treatment to their patients.

Specialist Cancer Consultants

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on global supply and demand of specialist cancer surgeons. [32402]

Mr. Malone: Cancer is treated by doctors in a number of specialities. Consultants in the specialties of medical oncology, clinical oncology—radiotherapy—radiology/nuclear medicine, haematology and general surgery all treat cancer patients. However, they are not all involved full time in the treatment of cancer. In addition, other specialties are also involved in the treatment of cancer.

The Government seek to ensure an adequate supply of appropriately trained doctors in each specialty, including those involved in the treatment of cancer. This involves planning the number of doctors in higher specialist training on a specialty by specialty basis. Employment of consultants is a matter for local employing bodies, which make medical staffing decisions in the light of competing priorities and the health care needs of the local population.

On 24 April 1995, following wide consultation, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health announced a strategic framework for the future development of cancer services based on the report "A Policy Framework for Commissioning Cancer Services", copies of which are available in the Library.

NHS Executive Headquarters (Staff)

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list *(a)* the number of staff who have been offered and accepted early retirement or voluntary redundancy at the national health service executive headquarters, Quarry house, Leeds, in 1995, *(b)* the cost of the voluntary redundancies and early retirements and *(c)* the initial costs of relocating the relevant staff to Leeds. [32529]

Mr. Sackville: Some 143 staff at the national health service executive headquarters, Leeds have been offered and accepted voluntary early severance or retirement. On redundancy and early retirement costs I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Barking (Ms Hodge) on 25 May 1995, columns *759-60*. On relocation costs, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the right hon. Member for Derby, South (Mrs. Beckett) on 13 January, column *258*.

Rape Support Services

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organisations there are in London which provide support services for women and girls who have been raped or sexually assaulted; if she will list those organisations; and what is the current level of government funding for those services. [32530]

Mr. Bowis: This information is not available centrally.

Edgware General Hospital

Mr. Dykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will reconsider the closure recommendation made by the district health authority for the accident and emergency department of Edgware General hospital, Edgware, Middlesex, pursuant to the letter sent on 27 June by the hon. Member for Harrow, East to the Prime Minister. [32656]

Mr. Malone: No. I have nothing to add to the replies I gave my hon. Friend on 21 June, column *259*.

Clinical Negligence Scheme

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will provide a list, by region, of those trusts which *(a)* have joined and *(b)* not joined the clinical negligence scheme for trusts. [27902]

Mr. Malone *[holding answer 12 June 1995]:* This information will be placed in the Library.

General Practitioners

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many single-handed general practitioners' practices were in receipt of payments under part VI, paragraph 34, section 2(u) of the NHS (General Medical Services) Regulations 1992 in *(a)* 1992, *(b)* 1993, *(c)* 1994 and *(d)* in the current year; [28102]

(2) what was *(a)* the lowest, *(b)* the highest and *(c)* the average payment made to single-handed general practitioners' practices under part VI, paragraph 34, section 2(u) of the NHS (General Medical Services) Regulations 1992 in *(a)* 1992, *(b)* 1993, *(c)* 1994 and *(d)* in the current year. [28083]

Mr. Malone *[holding answer 12 June 1995]:* The numbers in each financial year were as follows:

1992–93: 5

1993–94: 6

1994–95: 5

However, not all practices were in receipt of payments throughout the whole of each financial year.

Information available centrally does not identify payments made to individual general practitioners.

In 1994–95, the average payment was £19,057.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Orders in Council

Mr. William Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish a table showing for each of the last three years and the current year the number of Orders in Council applying to Northern Ireland under *(a)* affirmative, *(b)* negative and *(c)* emergency procedures. [32383]

Sir John Wheeler: The information in respect of Orders in Council made under paragraph 1 of schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974 is as follows:

Year	*Affirmative*	*Negative*	*Emergency procedures*
1992	12	8	nil
1993	12	4	nil
1994	12	4	1
1995	6	nil	nil

RUC Reserve

Ms Mowlam: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many recruits to the RUC full-time and part-time reserve will have training designed to improve community awareness and understanding; and if such training is available to longer serving officers in the RUC full-time and part-time reserve. [31048]

Sir John Wheeler: All new recruits to the RUC (full-time) reserve receive community awareness training. The training is currently under evaluation and it is proposed that it should be extended to the RUC (part-time) reserve.

A programme of divisional training is provided to longer serving officers. During the present cycle of divisional training, one of the subjects covered is professional police ethics which deals with community awareness perspective.

South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which organisations have supported his proposals to abolish the South Eastern education and library board. [31421]

Mr. Ancram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 June, *Official Report*, column *471*.

Making Belfast Work

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by Making Belfast Work on administration in the last year, and what proportion of the total budget this represents. [31653]

Mr. Moss: The administrative costs of Making Belfast Work, including nine actions teams, in 1994–95 was £1,510,794. This represents 5.59 per cent. of the total MBW and action team budget for 1994–95.

Animal Diseases

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will show, by type, the number of cases of fowl pest in each year since 1985. [32293]

Mr. Ancram: The term fowl pest includes both avian influenza—fowl plague—and Newcastle disease. Avian influenza has never occurred in Northern Ireland. Since 1985, Newcastle disease has been identified only in Northern Ireland in 1991 when six cases occurred.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of epizootic haemorrhagic virus disease occurred in each year since 1985. [32284]

Mr. Ancram: None.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy occurred in each year since 1985. [32375]

Mr. Ancram: The information is as follows:

1985: 0
1986: 0
1987: 0
1988: 3
1989: 30
1990: 100
1991: 170
1992: 333
1993: 487
1994: 363
1995: 88 (to 16 June)

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of African horse sickness occurred in each year since 1985. [32302]

Mr. Ancram: None.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of contagious equine metritis occurred in each year since 1985. [32281]

Mr. Ancram: None.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of rabies there were in each year since 1967. [32290]

Mr. Ancram: None.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of peste des petits ruminants occurred in each year since 1985. [32287]

Mr. Ancram: None.

Integrated Schools

Mr. William Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will give for each integrated school the sums expended on *(a)* capital expenditure, *(b)* running costs exclusive of teachers' salaries and *(c)* other running costs, (i) per school and (ii) per child; and if he will give the figure equivalent to *(b)* and *(c)* for (1) maintained, (2) controlled and (3) voluntary schools in *(A)* the primary and *(B)* the secondary levels, in the last year for which figures are available. [32434]

Mr. Ancram: Capital expenditure incurred by education and library boards on controlled integrated schools in 1994–95 was as follows:

	£
All Children Together Primary	2,614
Carnhill Primary	64,878
Forge Primary	38,277
Brownlow College	32,799

Capital expenditure approved by my Department for grant purposes in 1994–95 for each grant-maintained integrated school was as follows:

	£
Primary Schools	
Braidside	78,157
Bridge	64,882
Corran	504,717
Enniskillen	30,450
Hazelwood	172,914
Millstrand	36,598
Oakgrove	600,047
Omagh	46,406
Portadown	122,818
Windmill	4,964
Secondary Schools	
Hazelwood College	180,993
Lagan College	81,008

The information on running costs is not available in the form requested, but I would refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Redcar (Ms Mowlam) on 27 March, *Official Report*, column *484*.

Peace Process

Mr. Canavan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had about the peace process; and if he will make a statement. [29816]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: I have held bilateral meetings with the Ulster Unionist party and the Alliance party respectively, when there was an explanation of some issues that need to be addressed if there is to be a comprehensive and widely acceptable political settlement.

EDUCATION

Independent Schools

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many school age pupils resident in each local education authority area attend independent schools. [31899]

Mr. Robin Squire: The numbers of pupils of compulsory school age in independent schools in each LEA area in England are shown in the table. Information about the LEA area in which pupils are resident is not collected centrally.

Pupils of compulsory school age[1] in independent schools in each LEA area in England: January 1994

LEA	*Pupils*
Corporation of London	1,233
Camden	4,516
Greenwich	1,318
Hackney	2,628
Hammersmith	2,771
Islington	194
Kensington and Chelsea	7,454
Lambeth	1,214
Lewisham	2,592
Southwark	4,444
Tower Hamlets	223
Wandsworth	4,301
Westminster	4,170
Barking	0
Barnet	4,345
Bexley	493
Brent	1,634
Bromley	3,844
Croydon	6,898
Ealing	4,693
Enfield	1,000
Haringey	1,812
Harrow	3,609
Havering	528
Hillingdon	2,694
Hounslow	560
Kingston upon Thames	2,463
Merton	2,710
Newham	151
Redbridge	2,902
Richmond upon Thames	5,124
Sutton	1,356
Waltham Forest	1,184
Birmingham	4,772
Coventry	2,036
Dudley	247
Sandwell	104
Solihull	2,360
Walsall	446
Wolverhampton	1,372
Knowsley	0
Liverpool	2,529
St. Helens	554
Sefton	2,935
Wirral	3,623
Bolton	2,121
Bury	1,897
Manchester	4,497
Oldham	1,411
Rochdale	364
Salford	1,503
Stockport	3,812
Tameside	113
Trafford	2,969
Wigan	0
Barnsley	58
Doncaster	601
Rotherham	181
Sheffield	1,849
Bradford	3,624
Calderdale	971
Kirklees	1,448
Leeds	3,881
Wakefield	2,752
Gateshead	1,324
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,309
North Tyneside	822
South Tyneside	48
Sunderland	834
Isles of Scilly	0
Avon	10,781
Bedfordshire	4,725
Berkshire	12,892
Buckinghamshire	6,503
Cambridgeshire	5,372
Cheshire	6,534
Cleveland	2,367
Cornwall	2,095
Cumbria	2,535
Derbyshire	4,313
Devon	8,674
Dorset	6,475
Durham	1,987

Pupils of compulsory school age[1] in independent schools in each LEA area in England: January 1994

LEA	Pupils
East Sussex	9,060
Essex	9,349
Gloucestershire	5,800
Hampshire	15,827
Hereford and Worcester	8,434
Hertfordshire	14,164
Humberside	2,812
Isle of Wight	858
Kent	14,865
Lancashire	7,757
Leicestershire	6,762
Lincolnshire	3,352
Norfolk	5,135
North Yorkshire	6,862
Northamptonshire	5,193
Northumberland	647
Nottinghamshire	5,654
Oxfordshire	9,675
Shropshire	4,695
Somerset	6,973
Staffordshire	4,105
Suffolk	6,430
Surrey	26,273
Warwickshire	4,779
West Sussex	8,272
Wiltshire	4,697
England	421,108

[1] Pupils aged 5 to 15 as at 31 August 1993.

"Superhighways for Education"

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many copies of her Department's brochure "Superhighways for Education" have been printed; where they have been distributed; and what is the cost of production and distribution. [32533]

Mr. Boswell: Of the total UK printing of the consultation paper "Superhighways for Education", 15,000 copies were for the Department for distribution in England.

Copies have been sent to a range of interests in the higher education, further education and school sectors and local education authorities. Distribution was also undertaken to relevant industrial and commercial bodies including those which submitted evidence to last year's Trade and Industry Select Committee on optical fibre networks.

The cost of production and distribution in England is estimated at some £54,800.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what specific advertising campaigns have been undertaken by her Department each year since 1979. [32472]

Mr. Boswell: Listed are the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by the Department for Education since 1990:

(Financial year) 1990–91

Teacher Recruitment Advertising Campaign

Teaching as a Career

Train to Teach in London

1991–92

Teacher Recruitment Advertising Campaign

Parent's Charter

National Curriculum Tests

Business Donations to Schools

Teaching as a Career

1992–93

National Curriculum Tests

Grant-Maintained Schools—Helpline

Performance Tables

School Inspector Recruitment

1993–94

Charters for Further and Higher Education

Grant-Maintained Schools

National Curriculum Tests

1994–95

Private Finance Initiative

Details of advertising campaigns prior to 1990 are not readily available apart from costs which were given in a previous answer to the hon. Member on Tuesday 26 June 1995, *Official Report*, column *512*.

Standard Assessment Tasks

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what was the total cost of *(a)* marking the standard assessment tests, *(b)* publishing the results and *(c)* distributing the results for (i) seven-year-olds, (ii) 11-year-olds and (iii) 14-year-olds in 1994–95 and each academic year since 1989–90. [32471]

Mr. Forth: The tables give the available information relating to seven and 14-year-olds in financial years from 1991–92, the first year in which any pupils were statutorily assessed. The first statutory assessments of 11-year-olds did not take place until 1995.

(a) Marking the standard assessment tests

£ million

Financial year	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95
7-year-olds	20.04	29.08	23.06	21.6
14-year-olds	—	1.56	2.28	1.6

The figures represent the costs of assessment audit; the cost of marking by teachers is not separately identifiable.

(b) Publishing the results of 7 and 14-year-olds (£s)

Financial year	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95
7 and 14-year-olds	29,500	30,400	n/a	29,400

(c) Distribution of the results of 7 and 14-year-olds (£s)

Financial year	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95
7 and 14-year-olds	9,300	15,400	n/a	11,400

Nursery Education

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what were the number and percentage of three-year-olds in *(a)* maintained nursery schools and nursery classes, *(b)* infant classes in primary schools, *(c)* private or voluntary sector provision and *(d)* pre-school provision overall, at the latest available date. [32038]

Mr. Forth: Information on three-year-olds in schools in England in January 1994 is shown in the table. Information is not available for the private or voluntary sector.

Pupils aged three years of age in schools in England: January 1994

School type	*Pupils*	*Percentage of population*[1]
Maintained nursery schools and nursery classes	265,669	41
Infant classes in primary schools	1,285	[2]—
Independent schools[3]	20,964	3
All schools[4]	290,458	45

[1] Full-time and part-time pupils aged three years of age at 31 August 1993, including pupils who became four years of age by 1 January 1994, expressed as a percentage of the estimated population aged three at 31 August 1993.

[2] Negligible—less than 0.5.

[3] Includes pupils in direct grant nursery schools.

[4] Includes pupils in maintained nursery, primary and special schools, non-maintained special schools and independent schools.

Mr. Nigel Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps she is taking to ensure that the extension of nursery education to all four-year-olds does not lead to a reduction in places currently available to three-year-olds. [31952]

Mr. Forth: My right hon. Friend will shortly announce the details of her policy to provide a pre-school place for all four-year-olds whose parents wish to take it up. She has already made it clear that there will be new money to fund the expansion of places.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what is the cost of providing nursery education for *(a)* all three-year-olds and *(b)* all four-year-olds whose parents want it. [31976]

Mr. Forth: The aggregate cost would depend on parental preference and on local expenditure, where information is not collected separately for under-fives or for nursery schools.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by her, or ministerial colleagues in her Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied her and the total cost in each case, including that of officials, to public funds for each year since 1992. [32253]

Mrs. Gillian Shepherd: The destination, duration and purpose of ministerial overseas trips involving public funds since 1992 are listed.

Destination	*Duration (days)*	*Purpose*
Germany	1	Bilateral meeting
Spain	2	Bilateral meeting
USA	13	Fact-finding
Ireland	2	Bilateral meeting
Belgium	1	EU Education Council
Norway	2	Informal OECD meeting
Belgium	2	EU Education Council
Belgium	1	EU Youth Council
Pakistan	8	Commonwealth conference
France	2	Informal OECD meeting
Russia	3	EU/Russian conference
Finland	4	Bilateral meeting
Germany	3	EU Informal Education Council
Luxembourg	2	EU Education Council
Luxembourg	2	EU Youth Council
Bermuda	6	Women's Association of Bermuda
Netherlands	1	Informal OECD meeting
Malaysia and Singapore	5	Education Exports
Greece	3	EU Informal Education Council
Germany and Italy	5	Lecture and Presidency of European University Institute
Switzerland	2	Speech at a multilateral symposium
Slovakia	3	Visiting HE institutions
Belgium	2	EU Education Council
Germany	3	Bilateral meeting
USA	4	Informal OECD meeting and Bilateral meeting
Luxembourg	2	EU Education Council
Germany	1	Visit a MOD service school
New Zealand and Canada	17	Bilateral meeting
Denmark	2	EU Informal Education Council
France	1	Informal OECD meeting
Belgium	2	EU Education Council
France	1	Informal OECD meeting
Luxembourg	1	EU Education Council
Switzerland	2	Education Equipment Conference
France	3	OECD Science meeting
Mexico	8	Education Exports

Total departmental expenditure on foreign travel and foreign subsistence for 1991–92 to 1994–95 is listed:

Financial year	*Expenditure £*
1991–92	371,435
1992–93	308,158
1993–94	226,033
1994–95	156,803

The additional information requested could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Retirements and Redundancies

Mr. Nigel Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what was the cost for each local education authority of early retirement and redundancy packages in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

Mr. Robin Squire: Some of the information requested is not readily available. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Area Cost Adjustments

Mr. Nigel Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what factors were taken into account when deciding to include all salaries rather than education salaries in the determination of the area cost adjustment for the education standard spending assessment; [31947]

(2) pursuant to her answer to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett) on 12 June, *Official Report*, column *417*, what other expenses are taken into account besides salaries and higher rates when calculating area cost adjustment difference percentages; [31977]

(3) to what percentage of the education standard spending assessment the labour area cost adjustment is applied; and for what reason. [31949]

Mr. Robin Squire: All education staff—teaching and non-teaching—are members of labour markets which include other employment groups. The general market earning levels of these groups are therefore reflected in the area cost adjustment. London weighting payments and average teachers' salaries do not represent the full costs of providing a standard level of service in London and the south-east. Further costs arise from lower levels of experience, higher vacancy, wastage and turnover rates and non-salary payments.

The labour cost adjustment is applied to 80 per cent. of the education SSA since that represents the proportion which is intended to relate to employment costs —both direct and indirect and teaching and non-teaching.

Local Education Authority Expenditure

Mr. Steinberg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what were the amount and the percentage of its total education budget spent on provision for pupils out of school for each local education authority in each of the last five years. [31825]

Mr. Robin Squire: The table shows LEA expenditure on education other than at school, and as a percentage of total LEA expenditure, for 1993–94, the latest year for which figures are available. Figures disaggregating expenditure on education other than at school were not collected separately before 1993–94.

Expenditure on education other than at school

1993–94	*A* *Gross expenditure on education other than at school £000*	*B* *Gross LEA expenditure £000*	*C* *A as a percentage of B Percentage*
Corporation of London	70	2,792	2.5
Camden	2,103	107,239	2.0
Greenwich	3,930	130,387	3.0
Hackney	94	130,965	0.1
Hammersmith	2,959	87,131	3.4
Islington	n/a	117,886	n/a
Kensington and Chelsea	475	64,095	0.7
Lambeth	2,272	147,135	1.5
Lewisham	1,743	129,582	1.3
Southwark	9,295	130,033	7.1
Tower Hamlets	1,362	137,526	1.0
Wandsworth	4,270	111,613	3.8
Westminster	1,977	95,812	2.1
Barking	2,566	71,871	3.6
Barnet	136	135,228	0.1
Bexley	254	87,566	0.3
Brent	75	126,662	0.1
Bromley	2,559	90,193	2.8
Croydon	10,012	145,168	6.9
Ealing	2,007	129,805	1.5
Enfield	2,589	122,282	2.1
Haringey	269	123,408	0.2
Harrow	421	99,083	0.4
Havering	230	87,409	0.3
Hillingdon	164	77,691	0.2
Hounslow	176	105,192	0.2
Kingston upon Thames	541	55,558	1.0
Merton	1,583	79,806	2.0

Expenditure on education other than at school

1993–94	*A* *Gross expenditure on education other than at school* *£000*	*B* *Gross LEA expenditure* *£000*	*C* *A as a percentage of B* *Percentage*
Newham	2,104	123,745	1.7
Redbridge	499	110,514	0.5
Richmond upon Thames	1,378	67,346	2.0
Sutton	643	61,647	1.0
Waltham Forest	167	118,987	0.1
Birmingham	2,707	481,936	0,6
Coventry	676	155,060	0.4
Dudley	830	112,402	0.7
Sandwell	2,966	137,676	2.2
Solihull	781	90,603	0.9
Walsall	822	123,192	0.7
Wolverhampton	157	121,781	0.1
Knowsley	97	82,913	0.1
Liverpool	334	229,160	0.1
St. Helens	62	85,062	0.1
Sefton	258	128,750	0.2
Wirral	882	149,604	0.6
Bolton	312	116,752	0.3
Bury	268	79,172	0.3
Manchester	n/a	228,234	n/a
Oldham	98	114,020	0.1
Rochdale	99	91,563	0.1
Salford	473	95,098	0.5
Stockport	6,328	116,044	5.5
Tameside	1,740	91,012	1.9
Trafford	191	86,556	0.2
Wigan	78	131,580	0.1
Barnsley	193	89,309	0.2
Doncaster	687	137,447	0.5
Rotherham	1,175	118,246	1.0
Sheffield	5,449	198,400	2.7
Bradford	n/a	236,543	n/a
Calderdale	348	79,152	0.4
Kirklees	1,124	174,975	0.6
Leeds	507	303,660	0.2
Wakefield	356	130,009	0.3
Gateshead	5,864	88,358	6.6
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,383	123,114	2.7
North Tyneside	1,579	83,108	1.9
South Tyneside	2,146	67,558	3.2
Sunderland	801	126,776	0.6
Isles of Scilly	n/a	1,325	n/a
Avon	1,421	395,791	0.4
Bedfordshire	6,904	238,055	2.9
Berkshire	4,113	286,230	1.4
Buckinghamshire	934	272,288	0.3
Cambridgeshire	2,207	251,033	0.9
Cheshire	15,656	423,757	3.7
Cleveland	1,111	256,574	0.4
Cornwall	2,882	193,145	1.5
Cumbria	3,156	188,098	1.7
Derbyshire	2,236	372,067	0.6
Devon	1,401	386,425	0.4
Dorset	705	219,426	0.3
Durham	1,333	256,604	0.5
East Sussex	521	256,923	0.2
Essex	3,158	498,636	0.6
Gloucestershire	906	175,559	0.5
Hampshire	3,885	581,475	0.7
Hereford and Worcester	3,024	257,975	1.2
Hertfordshire	935	412,363	0.2
Humberside	n/a	403,069	n/a
Isle of Wight	326	50,013	0.7
Kent	31,152	527,687	5.9
Lancashire	3,599	618,913	0.6
Leicestershire	5,129	400,635	1.3
Lincolnshire	9,736	202,982	4.8
Norfolk	4,633	283,294	1.6
North Yorkshire	435	290,381	0.1

Expenditure on education other than at school

1993–94	*A Gross expenditure on education other than at school £000*	*B Gross LEA expenditure £000*	*C A as a percentage of B Percentage*
Northamptonshire	2,468	220,838	1.1
Northumberland	982	137,770	0.7
Nottinghamshire	1,119	445,597	0.3
Oxfordshire	n/a	229,999	n/a
Shropshire	409	169,883	0.2
Somerset	7,169	193,130	3.7
Staffordshire	1,677	405,148	0.4
Suffolk	1,379	255,816	0.5
Surrey	182	361,684	0.1
Warwickshire	324	201,245	0.2
West Sussex	593	270,019	0.2
Wiltshire	6,563	218,048	3.0
Total	237,057	20,226,082	1.2

Teachers' Pay

Mr. Nigel Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to her answer to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside, (Mr. Blunkett) of 12 June, *Official Report*, column *417*, if she will list separately for each inner, outer, and fringe London education authority and value per teacher of the London cost weighting allowance and the value of other incentives. [31978]

Mr Robin Squire: A teacher serving in the London area shall receive a London area allowance of:

£1,950 per annum if he is serving in the inner-London area;

£1,281 per annum if he is serving in the outer-London area; or

£498 per annum if he is serving in the fringe area.

The inner-London area means:

Camden, City of London, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hackney, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster and the areas of the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Ealing, Haringey, Merton and Newham;

The outer-London area means:

Barnet, Bexley, Bromley, Croydon, Enfield, Harrow, Havering, Hounslow, Hillingdon, Kingston, Redbridge, Richmond, Sutton, Waltham Forest;

The fringe area means:

in Berkshire: the district of Bracknell, Slough and Windsor and Maidenhead;

in Buckinghamshire: the Districts of South Buckinghamshire and Chiltern;

in Essex: the districts of Basildon, Brentwood, Epping Forest, Harlow and Thurrock;

in Hertfordshire: the districts of Broxbourne, Dacorum, East Hertfordshire, Hertsmere, St. Albans, Three Rivers, Watford and Welwyn Hatfield;

in Kent: the districts of Dartford and Sevenoaks;

in Surrey: the whole county; and

in West Sussex: the district of Crawley;

A governing body may also award up to two points on the classroom teachers' pay spine, or three in inner London, to a teacher who is employed "to teach subjects in which there is a shortage of teachers" or "in a post which is difficult to fill". It is for the governing body to judge whether any teacher meets either of these criteria and, if so, whether to award one or more points. The value of points on the spine varies.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which inner, outer, and fringe London education authorities, in compensating teachers for working in London, pay the inner-London supplement; and, which award extra points on the national wage scale for teachers' salaries. [31950]

Mr. Squire: New awards of the inner-London supplement—the discretionary additional supplement of £822 for teachers serving in the inner-London area—were discontinued from 1 September 1993 for classroom teachers and from 1 September 1994 for head teachers and deputies.

Teachers in receipt of the supplement have a continuing entitlement to it for as long as they remain in the same post and provided they have not been awarded an extra point or points that overtake their current salary including the supplement.

It is at the discretion of relevant bodies to decide whether to award an additional point or points. The relevant body in most cases is the governing body of a school with a delegated budget or a grant-maintained school. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of those governing bodies that have awarded such additional points.

Capital Expenditure, Hampshire

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what has been the average capital expenditure per pupil in Hampshire over each of the past four years in *(a)* local education authority schools and *(b)* grant-maintained schools. [31512]

Mr. Robin Squire: Average capital expenditure per pupil in Hampshire in local education authority schools, for the last four years that information is available, is as follows:

1990–91: £131.09
1991–92: £113.85
1992–93: £110.22
1993–94: £129.65

Average capital expenditure per pupil in Hampshire in grant-maintained schools is the responsibility of the Funding Agency for Schools. I have asked the chairman of the funding agency to write to the hon. Member with this information.

WALES

Local Government Reorganisation

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for what maximum period of time compensation schemes for council workers made redundant by local government reorganisation operate. [32184]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: In Wales, the special scheme in part III of the Local Government (Compensation for Redundancy) Regulations 1994 will operate for all redundancies which occur in the period beginning on 1 January 1996 and ending on 31 March 1997 and which meet the conditions set out in the regulations.

Cardiff Bay

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library a copy of the construction contract for the Cardiff Bay barrage. [32400]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: I will arrange for a copy of the Balfour Beatty-Costain Construction contract documents, excluding commercially sensitive information and the support technical specifications and drawings, to be placed in the Library of the House as soon as possible. The contract document, specifications and drawings will also be available for inspection at Baltic house, Mount Stuart square, Cardiff, between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

NHS in Wales

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the members appointed and the vacancies remaining on the boards of *(a)* the UHW NHS trust in Cardiff, *(b)* the Cardiff Community Healthcare trust and *(c)* the University Dental Hospital trust, Cardiff. [32401]

Mr. Richards: The board members appointed and vacancies remaining are as follows:

University Hospital of Wales Healthcare NHS Trust

Mr. D. W. C. Morgan, chairman

Mr. A. Stewart, chief executive

Ms W. Hewitt-Sayer, executive director of nursing

Mrs. M. K. Owen
Mr. J. M. McLean
Mr. T. Knowles
Mr. D. J. E. Morgan
Professor N. C. H. Stott
} non-executive directors

Three executive director positions are vacant.

Cardiff Community Healthcare NHS Trust

Mr. D. L. Crosby, chairman

Five non-executive director and five executive director positions are vacant. An invitation for one of the non-executive positions has been issued.

University Dental Hospital NHS Trust

Mr. A. S. Gould, chairman

Mr. J. D. Griffiths non-executive director

Professor S. R. Palmer non-executive director

Two non-executive director and four executive director positions are vacant.

Each trust has shadow executive directors in place where substantive appointments have yet to be made. Candidates for the remaining non-executive positions are now being interviewed and we hope to make announcements in the near future.

Judicial Reviews

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many applicants have been granted leave to apply for judicial review of his decisions in each of the last 10 years; how many have been unsuccessful; and what were the issues under scrutiny in each application. [32524]

Mr. Gwilym Jones *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* The information which can be given without disproportionate cost is as follows. Records show that, since 1986, there have been 28 cases involving applications for judicial review of the decisions of the Secretary of State for Wales. The applications mostly concern education, local government and the environment. It is not possible to say, without disproportionate cost, how many of these applications were unsuccessful.

TRANSPORT

Manchester Ship Canal

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has had from Manchester city council about protecting the Manchester ship canal from the possible impact of proposals related to a proposed landfill tax; what reply he is sending; and if he will make a statement. [30996]

Mr. Norris: The leader of Manchester city council, Councillor Graham Stringer, wrote to my right hon. Friend about the effect of the proposed landfill tax on dredging operations on 15 June. My noble Friend the Minister for Aviation and Shipping replied on 3 July. Copies of the correspondence have been placed in the Library.

Office of Passenger Rail Franchising

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if rail franchise holders will be permitted to increase seating capacity in order to meet Opraf specifications on load factor regulations for commuter trains; and if it will be permissible to do this by reducing seat pitch and leg room, or similar methods. [31900]

Mr. Watts: If a franchise operator amends the internal layout of his stock, the franchising director will reassess

its deemed capacity for the purposes of load factor regulation.

Rolling Stock Companies

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the detailed description of long-term Government support which is to be made available to short-listed bidders to buy rolling stock companies. [31901]

Mr. Watts: Minutes describing undertakings in respect of mandatory modifications and of certain rentals, proposed to be made to the rolling stock companies, were laid before the House on 24 May. I shall arrange for copies to be placed in the Library.

South West Trains

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employees of South West Trains have been stood off awaiting selected work in each year since 1990; how many of those staff have subsequently been found employment in the railway service; and how many have left the railway service under ill health severance arrangements. [31902]

Mr. Watts: The information requested is not held centrally by the British Railways Board or South West Trains, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Rail Privatisation

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if it remains his policy to franchise 51 per cent. of the rail passenger business by turnover by April 1996; and if he will list target dates for *(a)* invitations to tender, *(b)* submission of indicative bids, *(c)* short-listing of preferred bidders, *(d)* submission of definitive bidders, *(e)* completion of tender evaluation and *(f)* approval by Government, for each of the eight fast track franchises and for the west coast main line. [31898]

Mr. Watts: The Government have not changed their target. Invitations to tender in respect of Great Western, LTS Rail and South Wast Trains were issued on 17 May. Initial, non-binding bids are to be received by 28 July. Formal tenderers will be selected in September. The franchising director expects to award the first franchises in December. He will bring forward the remaining franchises as soon as they are ready. He aims to issue further invitations to tender later this year.

Red Routes

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is the latest assessment of the road safety of the A1 red route through Haringey and Islington; and if he will make a statement. [32224]

Mr. Norris: The assessment by the traffic director for London of the performance of the A1 pilot red route network continues to show that it has produced considerable safety benefits.

Barking to Gospel Oak Line

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Railtrack about the Barking to Gospel Oak line in respect of *(a)* track conditions, *(b)* frequency of train services and *(c)* the proposed new station at Tufnell Park; and if will make a statement. [32225]

Mr. Norris: I have travelled on the line with train operator management and Railtrack representatives, among others, to see how the service can be improved.

As part of last year's transport policies and programmes settlement, I reserved £200,000 in supplementary credit approval for a consortium led by the London borough of Waltham Forest towards selective station improvements on the line.

I understand that the consortium plans to use the SCA to take forward improvements at Leytonstone high road and Wanstead Park stations.

Railway Speed Restrictions

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of *(a)* the former Regional Railways, *(b)* the former InterCity railways and *(c)* the former Network SouthEast were affected by speed restrictions for each year between 1984 and 1994. [32403]

Mr. Watts: Railtrack informs me that this information is not held centrally and would involve disproportionate cost to collect.

Newbury Bypass

Mr. Rendel: To ask the Secretary of State for transport what estiamte he has been given by the Highways Agency of the likely date of delivery to him of the final report on the A34 Newbury bypass. [32415]

Dr. Mawhinney *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Hampshire, North-West (Sir D. Mitchell, on 5 July.

Sir David Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how long, to the nearest week, he now expects his consideration of the case for proceeding with the A34 Newbury bypass to last. [33219]

Dr. Mawhinney: Last December, I announced that, before construction work began on the A34 Newbury bypass, further consideration would be given to the proposed route. I had no doubt that the current situation on the A34 was intolerable and that there was strong economic justification for a bypass. But I wanted to be sure of the environmental balance between the principal route alternatives and to confirm that the route proposed was the best solution to the problems of congestion in Newbury.

Congestion has got much worse since the public inquiry in 1988. Then there were about 40,000 vehicles a day on the A34 through Newbury. Recent counts show an increase of 25 per cent. in overall traffic levels. Forecasts suggest that traffic flows will reach between 65,000 and 78,000 vehicles per day by the year 2010. The inquiry heard evidence of peak hour delays of up to 30 minutes. Longer delays are not unusual now.

A team of Highways Agency staff not previously associated with the scheme undertook this further consideration and has reported to me. I have placed a copy of its report in the Library.

As the report makes clear, the team examined both the background to the scheme and the changes in appraisal techniques, local circumstances and traffic and economic data that have occurred since the inquiry and the subsequent decisions of the Secretaries of State.

Among these matters, the team gave attention to:

the closure of Greenham Common air base, which opens up the possibility of a new Eastern route;

the expected designation of new sites of special scientific interest in the valleys of the Rivers Kennet and Lambourn;

protected species on the line of the announced route;

new archaeological data and the heritage value of the site of the 1643 Battle of Newbury;

the scope for induced traffic as a result of the bypass;

all central route options through the built-up area of Newbury, despite the fact that the inspector at the public inquiry had unequivocally rejected a central route;

lower levels of improvement of the existing road.

I have carefully considered all the changes and other factors addressed in the team's report, the scope for alternative options to those examined at the public inquiry, and the balance between all the options. I have also taken into account all the advice that I have been given and representations I have received since this study was inaugurated.

I agree with the team's assessments, and with its overall conclusion that the western bypass, for which statutory orders have been made and confirmed, is the most effective solution for Newbury. I now intend to move ahead speedily with the proposed scheme to bring much-needed relief to the town and its residents. On the basis of the team's report and the work leading up to the earlier decision, I can see no justification for further investigation or delay.

Highway Code

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what have been *(a)* the annual sales of the road traffic regulations and *(b)* the annual sales of the Highway Code for each year since 1965. [32208]

Mr. Norris: The information is not available in the format requested.

Traffic Studies (A34)

Mr. Patten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what grounds he decided not to publish the recent study into traffic on the A34 between Hinksey hill and the Peartree interchange. [32032]

Mr. Watts: Publication of the report could cause unnecessary anxiety about property blight.

A1-M1 Link Road

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the estimated cost of the A1-M1 link road and the level of bids received. [31723]

Mr. Watts: This is an operational matter for the Highways Agency. I have asked its chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lawrie Haynes to Mr. John Spellar, dated 5 July 1995:

As you know, the Minister for Railways and Roads, Mr. John Watts, has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the Secretary of States for Transport if he will make a statement on the estimated cost of A1-M1 link road and the level of bids received.

The estimated cost of the scheme is £190m at 1992 prices excluding VAT and land. Details of the bids are commercially confidential.

Atlantic Conveyor

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial contribution his Department made towards the lengthening of the Atlantic Conveyor in 1987. [31727]

Mr. Norris: None.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions have taken place between his Department and the Cunard Steamship Co., concerning the company's intention to sell off the Atlantic Conveyor to a foreign owner, replace the United Kingdom seafarers on board and remove it from the United Kingdom registry. [31909]

Mr. Norris: There have been no discussions with the Department.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what commitment his Department sought from Cunard Steamship Co. in respect of continued United Kingdom registration for the replacement vessel Atlantic Conveyor, prior to the Ministry of Defence making a financial contribution towards its construction. [31754]

Mr. Norris: None.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list militarily useful modification required to be made to the replacement Atlantic Conveyor during construction to enhance its defence capability; and what is the cost of each. [31753]

Mr. Soames: I have been asked to reply.

Militarily useful modifications made to the Atlantic Conveyor comprised: detached flight deck equipment and fittings, portable watertight bulkhead panels, aviation refuelling system, pipework to permit replenishment at sea, military communications equipment and PA system. The cost of the modifications were part of the contract with Cunard, details of which are commercially confidential.

Sycamore Trees, Bramshott

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the destruction of the memorial avenue of sycamore trees at Bramshott on the A3 Portsmouth road. [31724]

Mr. Watts: The trees, planted as a memorial to Canadian service men, were removed in the interest of road safety and the long-term health of the roadside environment. The decision to remove the trees was taken only after extensive consultations with interested parties, including the Canadian high commission.

To ensure that a memorial was retained, new plantations of maple trees imported from Canada have been provided on both sides of the A3 at Bramshott common. All the replacement trees are visible from the trunk road and accessible to the public. Wood from the felled trees is being used to make seats which will be presented to local churches and the national memorial arboretum. A seat will also be placed within the newly planted area.

The need to fell the trees was very much regretted but I hope everyone concerned will agree that the new memorial is an appropriate and fitting commemoration of those Canadians who lost their lives in the two world wars.

Car Share Initiatives

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the car share initiatives being operated for employees within his Department. [31830]

Mr. Norris: While departmental staff may make private arrangements to share commuting journeys by private car, the only part of the Department of Transport that operates a scheme is the Driving Standards Agency. Its scheme covers one quarter of its management areas.

A1 Upgrading

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what was his Department's estimate of the cost of upgrading the A1 between Peterborough and Alconbury; and what have been the bids made under the design-build-finance operate scheme. [31722]

Mr. Watts: This is an operational matter for the Highways Agency. I have asked its chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lawrie Haynes to Mr. John Spellar, dated 5 July 1995:

As you know, the Minister for Railways and Roads, Mr. John Watts, has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the Secretary of State for Transport, what was his Department's estimate of the cost of upgrading the A1 between Peterborough and Alconbury; and what have been the bids made under the Design-Build-Finance-Operate scheme.

The project had an estimated construction cost of £144 million (excluding VAT) based on 1992 prices. Details of bids received cannot be divulged because they are commercially confidential.

Road Protestors

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what was the total cost to public funds of the recent operation to remove protestors from the last house in Fillebrook road, Leytonstone. [31944]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for the Highways Agency. I have asked its chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lawrie Haynes to Mr. Harry Cohen, dated 5 July 1995:

As you know, the Minister for London, Mr. Steven Norris, has asked me to write in reply to your Parliamentary Question about the costs to public funds of evictions from 135 Fillebrook Road, Leytonstone in connection with the A12 Hackney Wick to M11 Link Road.

The operation took place only on June 21st, and so far we have identified only the costs of the Under Sheriff and his Officers and of the Treasury Solicitor and their disbursements. These amount to £239,349.52 in total.

This leaves the cost of security guards and I will let you have the figure as soon as we have been billed. The other major cost is of course for police resources, and as such not a matter for the Highways Agency.

No additional HA or consultant staff were employed specifically for the purposes of the eviction, and so we have not attributed any of our overhead costs to it.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his Department, their purpose and their cost. [32478]

Mr. Norris: Expenditure is as follows:

Year	*Total*[1]	*DOT Road Safety Campaigns*[1]	*DVLA (a)*	*DVLA (b)*
1985–86	5,655	5,375	0.280	0
1986–87[2]	9,267	8,777	0.490	0
1987–88[2]	9,435	8,905	0.530	0
1988–89	3,294	2,619	0.675	0
1989–90	4,255	3,531	0.724	0
1990–91	3,879	2,791	0.649	0.438
1991–92	5,832	4,666	0.676	0.490
1992–93	6,996	5,758	0.746	0.492
1993–94	5,814	4,245	0.870	0.699
1994–95	6,008	4,518	0.890	0.600

Road Safety: advertising to reduce number of road accidents by specifically targeted campaigns against speeding and drink driving.
DVLA (a): Enforcement of Vehicle Excise Duty—extensive localised publicity for raising public awareness to the penalties of vehicle excise duty evasion and to encourage motorists to relicense their vehicles.
DVLA (b): Sale of Vehicle registration numbers scheme—publicity to increase awareness of the sales scheme and the different product ranges.
[1] All DOT advertising figures exclude VAT.
[2] Includes BA and BAA flotation advertising costs.

Figures prior to prior to 1985 are not readily available.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Patent Office

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how successful the marketing department of the Patent Office has been in recent years according to the Patent Office corporate plans; and if he will make a statement. [32358]

Mr. Ian Taylor: Since the Patent Office became an executive agency in 1990, the work of its marketing department has concentrated on spreading awareness of the importance of intellectual property rights—for example, through advertising campaigns and roadshows. Outputs have been monitored against budgets set, and quality assessed through feedback invited from customers. On both counts, the marketing department has consistently achieved its objectives. However, the effect of its work on demand for Patent Office services could

not be quantified, since it has not possible to differentiate it from other determinants such as the economic climate and changes in the speed of innovation cycles.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he has to contract out the work of the marketing department of the Patent Office, and if he will make a statement. [32348]

Mr. Taylor: My right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade stated in his announcement of the outcome of the Patent Office review on 14 December 1994, *Official Report*, column *657–58* that the office would be encouraged to contract out activities wherever this is compatible with its statutory role and good value for money. Consultants have been retained to explore market potential for Patent Office services, focusing on demand for non-statutory services such as commercial searches and technical advice, and means of realising it. Contractorisation of marketing and information work is therefore a possibility, but the consultants have not yet reported and no decisions have yet been taken.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what procedures are in place for the consultation with Patent Office employees concerning contractorisation and re-engineering within the office; and if he will make a statement. [32349]

Mr. Taylor: The chief executive of the Patent Office and other senior managers met all staff in small groups following the outcome of the Patent Office review, and discussed issues of contractorisation and reengineering at that time. Another round of discussion will take place later in the summer. The trade unions have been notified of the appointment of consultants to consider selected areas, and contract officers have been identified.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is his most recent judgment concerning the eligibility of the Patent Office employees to make bids for work put to tender by the Patent Office; and if he will make a statement. [32356]

Mr. Taylor: Certain areas of work within the Patent Office are being considered to see whether—in principle—contracting out would be feasible. No tenders have yet been issued. Should tenders be invited, staff may enter a bid on the same basis as the private sector, with the corollary that they will cease to be civil servants if their bid is successful. Bids for contracted out services will be assessed against benchmarks for the forecast cost and quality of service from in-house provision, and so staff already have the opportunity to prove that they can match or beat the private sector if the services remain in-house.

Official Receiver, Hull Office

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many bankruptcy orders and winding up orders have been dealt with by the official receiver's office, Hull, in each of the last six years. [32508]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The total numbers of new bankruptcy orders and winding up orders dealt with by the official receiver, Hull office in each of the last six years were as follows:

Year ended 31 March	*Bankruptcies*	*Winding ups*
1990	168	55
1991	322	116
1992	555	123
1993	645	140
1994	579	135
1995	488	104

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many casual staff have been employed in the official receiver's office, Hull, in each of the last six years. [32509]

Mr. Evans: The numbers of casual staff employed at the official receiver, Hull office as at 1 April in each of the last six years were as follows:

Year	*Number of casual staff*
1 April 1990	0
1 April 1991	1
1 April 1992	2
1 April 1993	2
1 April 1994	2
1 April 1995	3

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many directors were disqualified under the Directors Disqualification Act 1986 in each of the courts covered by the official receiver's office, Hull, in each of the last four years. [32588]

Mr. Evans: The numbers of disqualification orders made under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 in the Great Grimsby, Kingston-upon-Hull, Scarborough, Scunthorpe and York courts covered by the official receiver, Hull office in each of the last four years were as follows:

Year ended 31 March	*Number of orders made*
1992	2
1993	2
1994	3
1995	1

Official Receiver

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he has to prevent the directors and shareholders of Shreeveport Ltd., or any of their associates, as defined by section 435 of the Insolvency Act 1986, from bidding for any of the contracts for privatising any of the functions of the official receiver.

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The terms of the contract between Shreeveport Ltd. and the Insolvency Service prevent directors and shareholders of Shreeveport, or any of their associates, from bidding for any of the functions of the official receiver.

Mr. Austin: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what consideration he is giving to the recommendation of Stoy Hayward Consulting on using a pilot scheme to evaluate whether the contracting out

of the functions of the official receiver will give increased value for money. [32605]

Mr. Evans: The recommendation of Stoy Hayward Consulting was carefully considered, but it was concluded that a pilot scheme would not provide a sufficiently reliable indication of the likely value for money of contracting out across all official receiver's offices.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade in what circumstances he will be prepared to contract out the investigatory function of the official receiver following the enabling order. [32598]

Mr. Evans: There is no intention to contract out any functions of the official receiver other than those currently being considered.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is his policy in respect of the Stoy Hayward Consulting recommendation that the functions of the official receiver should be contracted out only to insolvency practitioners. [32586]

Mr. Evans: Stoy Hayward Consulting concluded from its work that insolvency practitioners were the most likely candidates for contracting out of official receivers' functions, but the invitation for expressions of interest was not restricted to insolvency practitioners.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement as to the likely benefits he expects if the work of the official receiver is contracted out. [32582]

Mr. Evans: The decision to explore the viability of contracting out the functions of the official receiver was based on the potential for increased value for money and advice that contracting out would allow official receivers to concentrate more on their investigative effort.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, when a contractor becomes insolvent, the official receiver awarding the contract will become personally liable for any losses incurred, in the event of part of the function of the official receiver being contracted out. [32590]

Mr. Evans: Pursuant to the provisions of section 72 of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, official receivers will remain liable at law for the proper discharge of their function.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how he intends to inform Insolvency Service staff of the developments towards contracting out functions of official receivers. [32507]

Mr. Evans: A communications strategy is in place within the Insolvency Service with the aim of keeping staff up to date with the progress of the contracting out exercise.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if contractors will be required to purchase or lease the LOIS computer system in the event of the functions of the official receiver being contracted out. [32511]

Mr. Evans: No, but there will be minimum mandatory requirements as to compatibility and interfacing between any office systems which providers propose to use and the Insolvency Service's system.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if indemnity, required from contractors awarded the work of official receivers, will include provision for any losses incurred by official receivers as a result of fraudulent behaviour by the contractor or a member of his staff. [32602]

Mr. Evans: Any form of indemnity required from contractors undertaking the functions of the official receivers would need to provide for all liabilities, however arising, falling on the official receiver in relation to those functions.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what contingency plans he will have in place if, in the event of the privatisation of parts of the Insolvency Service, a contractor responsible for carrying out the functions of the official receiver becomes insolvent. [32604]

Mr. Evans: Any contracting out of official receivers' functions will proceed only where value for money is assured and any such calculation will take into account the financial standing of potential contractors. Contracting out to a number of contractors would enable alternate providers to be used in the event of one becoming insolvent.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the addresses of each official receiver's office or sub-office, showing whether the properties leasehold, rented or freehold and, where appropriate, the length of any remaining issue. [32581]

Mr. Evans: The addresses of the offices of official receivers, including sub-offices showing lease/freehold details are:

Office	*Address*	*Status*	*Remaining lease*
Birmingham	Commercial Union House, Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP	Leasehold	24 June 2018
Due to move later this year to	Ladywood House, 45–46 Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4DQ	Leasehold	24 June 2018
Bournemouth (sub-office of Southampton)	3rd Floor, Bristol and West House, Post Office Road, Bournemouth BH1 1LH	Leasehold	28 September 1998
Brighton	69 Middle Street, Brighton East, Sussex BN1 1BE	Leasehold	27 July 2013
Bristol	3rd and 4th Floors, Intercity House, Mitchell Lane, Bristol BS1 6BD	Leasehold	24 December 2001
Cambridge (sub-office of Northampton)	2nd Floor, Abbeygate House, 164–167 East Road, Cambridge CB1 1DB	Leasehold	24 March 2012
Canterbury (sub-office of Rochester)	50 New Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3DT	Leasehold	23 June 1995
Cardiff	3rd Floor, Hayes House, The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 2UG	Leasehold	28 September 2008

Office	Address	Status	Remaining lease
Chester (sub-office of Stoke)	Dee Hills Park, Chester CH3 5AR	Freehold	—
Croydon	5th Floor, Sunley House, Bedford Park, Croydon CR9 1TX	Leasehold	18 September 2005
Exeter (sub-office of Plymouth)	3rd Floor, Finance House, Barnfield Road, Exeter EX1 1QR	Leasehold	28 August 2001
Gloucester (sub-office of Bristol)	21–23 London Road, Gloucester GL1 3HB	Leasehold	30 April 2017
Hull	Suite J, Anchor House, The Maltings, Silvester Street, Hull HU1 3HA	Leasehold	19 September 2016
Ipswich (sub-office of Norwich)	St. Clare House, Greyfriars, Ipswich IP1 1LX	Leasehold	31 July 2013
Leeds	2nd Floor, Savile House, Trinity Street Arcade, Leeds LS1 6QP	Leasehold	24 December 1995
Leicester	5th Floor, Haymarket House, Haymarket Centre, Leicester LE1 3YS	Leasehold	28 September 2004
Liverpool	2nd Floor, Cunard Building, Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1DS	Leasehold	30 September 2005
London	21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3SS	Leasehold	24 December 2013
London Support Unit	4th Floor, Somerset House, 37 Temple Street, Birmingham B2 5DV	Leasehold	30 September 2000
Manchester	Townbury House, 11 Blackfriars Street, Salford M3 5AB	Leasehold	26 July 2000
Newcastle	3rd Floor, Westgate House, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1TU	Leasehold	24 March 2000
Northampton	90 Abington Street, Northampton NN1 2BX	Leasehold	28 September 1996
Norwich	Emmanuel House, 2 Convent Road, Norwich NR2 1PA	Leasehold	28 February 2021
Nottingham (sub-office of Leicester)	Severns House, 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham NG1 7EP	Leasehold	23 June 1995
Plymouth	1st Floor, Prudential Building, 115 Armada Way, Plymouth PL1 1HW	Leasehold	29 September 1995
Reading	1st Floor, 47 Friar Street, Reading RG1 1RY		23 March 2000
Rochester	Gordon House, 15 Star Hill, Rochester ME1 1TX	Freehold	—
St. Albans	1st Floor, Trident House, 42-48 Victoria Street, St. Albans AL1 3HR	Leasehold	28 February 2016
St. Annes	Petros House, St. Andrews Road, North Lytham St. Annes FY8 2JB	Leasehold	24 May 2014
Sheffield	6th Floor, Don House, 20-22 Hawley Street, Sheffield S1 2EA	Leasehold	31 December 1997
Southampton	Western Range, 83–85 London Road, Southampton SO15 2SH	Freehold	—
Southend	2nd Floor, Tylers House, Tylers Avenue, Southend on Sea, Essex SS1 2AX	Freehold	—
Stockton (sub-office of Newcastle)	Bayheath House, Prince Regent Street, Stockton on Tees TS18 1DF	Leasehold	28 September 2001
Stoke	London House, Hide Street, Stoke on Trent ST4 1QN	Leasehold	24 March 1999
Swansea	5th Floor, Sun Alliance House, 166–167 St. Helens Road, Swansea SA1 5DL	Leasehold	24 March 2006

None of the leaseholds are currently held by the Insolvency Service: the freeholds are held by the Crown.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many expressions of interest he has received after advertising the contracting out of the functions of the official receiver, distinguishing those received from insolvency practitioners and those received from other interested parties. [32585]

Mr. Evans: Some 149 expressions of interest were received, of which 117 were from insolvency practitioners.

Gas

Mr. O'Neill: To ask the President of the Board of Trade on what percentage targets of non-British Gas supply to both commercial and consumer markets his Department will assess the success of the Gas Bill by *(a)* 1998, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 2005; and if his Department will review (i) the competitive restrictions on British Gas plc and (ii) its relationship with British Gas TransCo if these targets are not met. [30088]

Mr. Eggar: The regulatory framework proposed in the Gas Bill and accompanying licensing regime is intended to give all gas suppliers the opportunity to supply the market on fair and equal terms. It is not consistent with this objective to set targets for the loss of market share by one particular supplier.

DAMAGED ORIGINAL

The regulatory framework we propose, together with normal competition law, provides mechanisms for the Secretary of State and the director general to consider, as necessary and in accordance with their respective roles, the appropriateness of particular licence conditions—whether standard or specific to British Gas—and the relationship of British Gas TransCo to the British Gas trading businesses.

Ofgas

Mr. O'Neill: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if procedures and criteria by which decisions are arrived at by the Director General of Ofgas will be *(a)* published and *(b)* made available to those affected by the decision. [30071]

Mr. Eggar: The director general has adopted a policy of consulting where practicable before taking decisions and setting out in such consultation the basis of her proposed approach. This policy, executed within the framework of the director's statutory duties, is one which the Government supports.

British Gas

Mr. O'Neill: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which companies will hold legacy transportation contracts with British Gas plc on 1 October; and when these contracts will expire. [30072]

Mr. Eggar: This is a commercially confidential matter for British Gas and its contractual partners.

Economic League

Mr. Redmond: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what information his Department receives from the Economic League; and if he will make a statement. [31680]

Mr. Heseltine: The DTI has had no dealings with the Economic League and has received no information from it.

Recycling

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what steps he is taking to encourage the use of recycled materials in the manufacturing processes of United Kingdom companies. [32455]

Mr. Page: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 22 May 1995, *Official Report*, column *423*.

British Airways

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what discussions he has had with British Airways on its sourcing of aeroplanes and engines from non-European Union countries. [32453]

Mr. Eggar: None.

Aircraft Engines

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what has been the effect on the balance of trade between the United Kingdom and the United States of America of the decision to buy Boeing 727 aircraft with United States rather than United Kingdom—manufactured engines. [32454]

Mr. Eggar: None. The Boeing 727 aircraft, which first flew in 1963, were all powered by US manufacture Pratt and Whitney JT and D engines. No UK carriers ordered new Boeing 727s and thus there was no effect on the UK's balance of trade.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his Department, their purpose and their cost. [32479]

Mr. Heseltine: The Department of Trade and Industry works with the Central Office of Information, which manages media advertising on behalf of central Government.

Expenditure since 1979 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, total advertising expenditure by the Department through the COI for the past five years is:

Year

1990–91: £5,496,898

1991–92: £798,527

1992–93: £1,120,539

1993–94: £606,338

1994–95: £501,146

Major campaigns each year during this time have been as follows:

1990–91

Enterprise Initiative

Single Market

Queens Award

1991–92

Single Market

SMART

1992–93

Business in Europe

Export Services

Queens Award

SMART

1993–94

Business in Europe

SMART

Queens Award

1994–95

SMART

Overseas Trade Services

Queens Award

RECHAR

Mr. Tipping: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when the east midlands RECHAR II decision document was due to be signed by the European Commission; what delays have occurred; what outstanding issues are yet to be resolved; what reasons are given by the Commission for any such delays; when he expects the decision document will be signed; and if he will make a statement. [31685]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* In common with all the Community initiatives programmes sent by member states by the deadline of 31 October 1994 set in the relevant European Commission notice of 1 July, the east midlands RECHAR II programme should have been adopted by 30 April 1995. The process was delayed by the tardy initial response by the Commission to the programme. The Commission wrote on 13 February 1995. The Commission has, in discussions with officials, stated that delays are due to delays in the negotiations of member states' objective 2 and objective 5(b) single programme documents and Community support framework and the large number of Community initiative programmes sent by member states.

I understand that there are no outstanding issues on the east midlands RECHAR II programme and the Commission expect to adopt the programme by the end of July.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Middle East

17. **Mr. Carrington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made towards peace in the middle east. [30911]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon, South (Mr. Marshall) earlier.

30. **Mr. Watson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects to meet the Israeli foreign minister to discuss developments in the middle east peace process. [30924]

Mr. Hogg: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Israeli Foreign Minister at the end of March when they discussed the peace process. He currently has no plans to meet Mr. Peres.

Security Council Resolutions

19. **Mr. Soley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to improve the effectiveness of the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions as they relate to the former Yugoslavia. [30913]

Mr. Hurd: We are committed to the Security Council resolutions in relation to all countries of the former Yugoslavia. We are major contributors to UNPROFOR and are increasing its effectiveness by providing additional British troops to create a rapid reaction force. We are playing our full part in sanctions enforcement, and are providing a total of 26 monitors to the international conference on former Yugoslavia, ICFY.

We are putting our full weight behind the peace process and welcome the appointment of Mr. Bildt as EU mediator. His appointment and the deployment of the rapid reaction force have created a window of opportunity. It is up to the parties to seize this moment and come to a negotiated settlement, accepting the contact group plan as a starting point.

Intergovernmental Conference

20. **Mr. Riddick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will be prepared to consider handing over any further powers to the European Union and its institutions as part of the negotiations during next year's intergovernmental conference. [30914]

Mr. David Davis: We see no case for any extension of Community competence at the forthcoming intergovernmental conference.

21. **Sir Roger Moate:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a further statement about preparations for the forthcoming intergovernmental conference. [30915]

Mr. Davis: We are continuing to develop Britain's approach to the intergovernmental conference. The study group which will prepare for the IGC has begun its work. Its next meeting is on 10 and 11 July.

Sudan

22. **Mr. Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement about the civil war in southern Sudan. [30916]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: We fully support the peace initiative launched last year by the intergovernmental authority for drought and development, IGADD. I expressed concern about the civil war during a meeting with the Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on 22 May, and urged the Sudanese Government to persevere with the IGADD initiative.

36. **Mr. Purchase:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on human rights in Sudan. [30930]

Mr. Hogg: We continue to be concerned about the lamentable human rights situation in the Sudan. I raised this with the Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in a meeting on 22 May.

Japanese Diet (Apology)

24. **Mr. Barnes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is his Department's policy towards the statement of apology recently discussed by the Japanese Diet; and if he will make a statement. [30918]

Mr. Hurd: We attach importance to the apology given to the Prime Minister in September 1993 by his Japanese counterpart, which included specific reference to prisoners of war. The recent statement by the Japanese Diet is a more general expression of "deep remorse".

Cyprus

25. **Mrs. Roche:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the current situation in Cyprus. [30919]

Mr. David Davis: The present division of Cyprus is unacceptable. We are actively supporting the UN Secretary-General's mission of good offices which offers the best hope for a just and lasting solution.

Exploratory discussions between representatives of the two communities in Cyprus took place in London on 21 to 23 May. We are encouraging both sides in Cyprus to approach future negotiations positively and flexibly.

Governmental Relations (Iran and Iraq)

26. **Mr. Chisholm:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the British Government's relations with Iraq and Iran during the 1980s. [30920]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: The UK's relations with both Iran and Iraq during the 1980s were difficult. The Iranian Government's policies after the 1979 revolution were hostile to our interests. We had a series of problems with Iraq. The Iran-Iraq war was a further complication.

Kashmir

27. **Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the present situation in Kashmir. [30921]

Mr. Baldry: The Indian Government have recently extended President's rule over the state of Jammu and Kashmir for six months from mid-July. They have made it clear that they will try to hold state elections within that period. We hope that such elections could provide a first step towards the genuine political process for which we have long called.

31. **Mr. Madden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement setting out Her Majesty Government's policy in respect of Kashmir. [30925]

Mr. Baldry: Our position is unchanged. We continue to believe that the best way forward on Kashmir should involve simultaneous progress on dialogue between India and Pakistan as provided for under the 1972 Simla agreement, improvement in human rights in Kashmir and a genuine political process there and a clear cessation of external support for violence in Kashmir. We stand ready to offer our good offices to help resolve the dispute if both sides so wish.

BBC World Service

28. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will make a statement on the outcome of the recent review of monitoring of the BBC World Service. [30922]

Mr. Baldry: A review of BBC monitoring, the first in recent years, was carried out in 1994 by a joint team from the BBC, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence. The review concluded that BBC monitoring continues to play a valuable role and should be retained, but recommended improvements to the marketing and distribution of its products. From 1997, BBC monitoring will no longer be funded from the grant in aid to the BBC World Service. Instead, official users will pay a subscription, based on their individual requirements. Monitoring will remain part of the BBC, as a fully trading business unit. The FCO will remain the sponsoring Government Department.

These decisions have been agreed with the BBC.

Angola

29. **Mr. Grocott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to meet the Angolan Foreign Minister to discuss the situation in that country. [30923]

Mr. Baldry: My right hon. and noble Friend Baroness Chalker had talks with Dr. Venancio de Moura during a visit to Angola on 19 to 21 June. She also had meetings with President Dos Santos, Prime Minister Moco, other Ministers and senior representatives of UNITA. All assured her of their commitment to a successful conclusion to the peace process.

Western European Union

32. **Mr. Robert Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what has been the response to the Government's initiative to build up the Western European Union within the Atlantic Alliance. [30926]

Mr. David Davis: The proposals set out by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in the House on 1 March have been welcomed by WEU and NATO member Governments as a demonstration of our readiness to play an active and constructive role in this area. WEU Ministers, meeting in Lisbon on 15 May, welcomed our ideas, together with those put forward by other nations, as a significant contribution to the forthcoming debate at the intergovernmental conference.

Arms Exports

33. **Mrs. Anne Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on arms exports. [30927]

Mr. David Davis: It is our policy to support the sale of British defence equipment overseas where this is compatible with our political, strategic and security interests. We observe strict responsibility in our defence exports. We consider applications for licences to export defence equipment on a case-by-case basis in the light of established criteria including the international guidelines to which we are committed.

Former Yugoslavia

34. **Mr. Wareing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Her Majesty's Government's relations with that part of the former Yugoslavia comprising Serbia and Montenegro. [30928]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: We do not recognise the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). We will review our position in the light of developments in the peace process.

Hong Kong

35. **Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guarantees he has obtained from the Chinese Government that press freedom and trade union rights will be respected in Hong Kong after 1 July 1997. [30929]

Mr. Baldry: Under the Sino-British joint declaration, the Government of the future Hong Kong special administrative region shall maintain the rights and freedoms provided for by the laws previously in force in Hong Kong. The declaration explicitly protects freedom of the press, freedom to form and join trade unions, and freedom to strike.

Russia

37. **Mr. Tony Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met members of the Russian Government to discuss human rights in that country. [30931]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: My right hon. Friend last met Foreign Minister Kozyrev on 7 June when he made clear our concerns about human rights abuses in Chechnya. There was a detailed exchange on the general human rights situation at official level in Moscow in April. A further such exchange with the Russians will take place here in July.

Mr. Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement about Britain's relations with Russia. [30898]

Mr. Hurd: Russia, and our relationship with Russia, have been transformed in the last six years. We are now dealing with a Russia where democracy is putting down strong roots, where the press is free and where the rules of the market increasingly prevail. Russia has become a valued partner in tackling some of the international problems which confront us.

Britain has played a central role in this process of change. We helped redesign Europe's security arrangements, through the 4+2 process, after the collapse of the Berlin wall. We have pressed for a strong and productive relationship between Russia and NATO, which led to Russia joining the partnership for peace process in May. We have worked together closely over Bosnia, as members of the contact group. We have supported Russian involvement in the annual economic summits.

Britain has offered practical support for Russian reform through the know-how fund—widely regarded as the best of its kind. We have also led the debate in Europe on the need to open our markets to Russian exports. I hope this will be crowned by the signature of the interim agreement later this month.

Our relations with Russia have never been better in this century. They have been strongly reinforced by the Prime Minister's close personal relationship with President Yeltsin and by Her Majesty the Queen's dramatic state visit to Russia last year.

Gibraltar

38. **Rev. Martin Smyth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Administration of Gibraltar in respect of the United Kingdom's requirements in relation to the Gibraltar banking system. [30932]

Mr. David Davis: I have discussed with the Chief Minister, Mr. Bossano, the importance of Gibraltar's banking and financial services industry having the highest reputation of honesty and probity if it is to flourish and make the important contribution to Gibraltar's economy which both he and I want to see.

European Institutions

Mr. Marlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what powers he seeks to repatriate from European institutions. [30917]

Mr. David Davis: We are still considering our approach on a range of issues for next year's inter-governmental conference, including the possible limitation and repatriation of Community competences.

Arms Control

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals have been put forward to date, and what new proposals are planned, to fulfil the commitment made in the chairman's statement from the G7 summit in Halifax, at paragraph 5 of the sections on arms control and disarmament, to work with other G7 nations to strengthen systems of control, accounting and physical security of nuclear materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency. [31874]

Mr. David Davis: The UK has discussed the problems of nuclear smuggling on a number of occasions with G7 partners and Russia. In our view, it is important to ensure adequate systems of nuclear materials accountancy and control and physical protection. We have offered bilateral assistance to a number of countries in this area. At the Halifax summit, it was agreed that a nuclear safety conference should be held early next year which is likely to consider what further role the G7 and Russia can play in this.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his Department, their purpose and their cost. [32484]

Mr. Goodlad: Figures for total expenditure on promotional material and recruitment advertising in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office—diplomatic wing and ODA—are as given in my written answer to the hon. Member for Gordon (Mr. Bruce) on 13 February 1995. The FCO produces most of its advertising and publicity material in-house. Details of expenditure incurred on advertising agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bosnia

Mr. Rowe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the involvement of the United Kingdom in Bosnia has so far cost the United Kingdom. [32445]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: We have so far contributed over £271 million in aid to the former Yugoslavia—£136 million bilaterally and £135 million through the European Union—and incurred net costs of £292 million for our contribution to UNPROFOR and the Sarajevo airlift. Our commitments to NATO's Deny Flight operation and to

Operation Sharp Guard have been £33 million and £1 million respectively. In addition, we have contributed £10.9 million towards the European Community monitoring mission and £1.1 million to the international conference on former Yugoslavia.

There have been other costs to our involvement in the former Yugoslavia, but this information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Opt-outs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many opt-outs for the United Kingdom have been agreed with the European Union. [32037]

Mr. David Davis *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* Under protocol No. 11 of the treaty on European union, the United Kingdom is not obliged or committed to move to stage three of European monetary union. Under protocol No. 14 of the same treaty, the member states can agree that all except the United Kingdom could, under a separate agreement between themselves, take acts and decisions to give effect to their agreement on social policy. No such act would be applicable to the United Kingdom, nor would the United Kingdom bear any consequent budgetary burden other than administrative costs of the institutions.

Consular Fees

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to increase consular fees. [33124]

Mr. Baldry: An Order in Council, the Consular Fees Order 1995, made on 28 June, provides for increases between 17 per cent. and 100 per cent. in certain consular fees with effect from 20 July, 1995. A new entry clearance fee for multiple entries, valid for one year, will be introduced on the same date. It is Government policy that the cost of the consular services should be borne by users as far as possible.

Libya

Mr. Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on his policy towards the granting of visas to citizens of Libya. [30892]

Mr. Baldry: I can confirm that Libyan nationals are required to obtain visas before they can enter the UK. All applications are considered under the immigration rules HC 395.

Apart from transit passengers, remaining airside, and business visitors previously issued with visas in the past six months, all applications received from Libyan nationals are referred to the migration and visa department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. Applicants over the age of 16 are required to sign a declaration of non-violence before being granted a visa.

Libyan nationals can be granted only single entry visas.

The British interests section in Tripoli offers a limited visa service and accepts applications from diplomats, officials and urgent medical and family reunion applications from close family members. Applicants for visit visas can apply at any other British overseas mission designed to issue visas. Applicants for other categories should apply to Valletta. A list of designated posts is held in the Library of the House.

East Timor

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 22 May, *Official Report*, columns *382-83*, what meetings there have been between the British embassy staff and representatives of the East Timorese people; which leaders they met; and if discussions were conducted about the export of British arms to Indonesia. [32618]

Mr. Goodlad: A member of the British embassy staff last visited East Timor on 27-29 June 1995. He had meetings with a number of East Timorese leaders, covering the range of Timorese opinion.

We have regular meetings with East Timorese representatives in East Timor, in Indonesia and elsewhere. For instance, I met Ramos Horta and Abilio Araujo, at their request, earlier this year in London.

South Africa

Mr. Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance is being given by Her Majesty's Government to the encouragement of multi-party democracy and good community relations in South Africa. [30896]

Mr. Hurd: South Africa's transformation to full democracy is one of the most welcome developments of recent years. Britain's support for the new South Africa was shown by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's visit last September, and by Her Majesty the Queen's dramatic state visit in March. South Africa will be warmly welcomed at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in November, after 33 years' absence from the Commonwealth.

Britain is helping the new South Africa through promotion of trade and investment, strengthening of scientific, defence, cultural and sporting links, and through development assistance. We helped with preparations for the elections of April 1994, and will help with the local elections in November this year. I also welcome strengthening parliamentary links—including the visit by a delegation of hon. Members in April, and the plans by Madam Speaker to visit in August. I look forward to growing co-operation between Britain and South Africa in the years ahead.

DEFENCE

Maintenance Group Defence Agency

Mr. Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the key management targets of the RAF Maintenance Group Defence Agency for the financial year 1995–96. [33125]

Mr. Soames: The RAF Maintenance Group Defence Agency's key management targets for 1995–96 concentrate on three principal objectives:

(a) The effective performance of the group.

(b) the economic use of resources.

(c) The introduction of management initiatives.

The group's targets are:

(a) To achieve at least 98 per cent. of the specified aerosystems maintenance task to standard and on time.

(b) To achieve the joint service publication 336 "Defence Supply Manual" speed of issue and pipeline targets for at least 95 per cent. of the depot supply task.

(c) to keep within the group's allocated budget.

(d) To reduce the cost per unit of output by 2.5 per cent.

(e) To issue the invitation to tender, under the "Competing for Quality" initiative, for the designated functions at RAF Sealand by 31 October 1995 and at RAF St. Athan by 1 March 1996.

(f) To continue the comprehensive rationalisation of functions within the agency by:

(1) Completing the transfer of all active stock from RAF Carlisle by 31 March 1996, thereby enabling the closure of the unit by 31 March 1997.

(2) Cease the operation of RAF Quedgeley as an independent unit by 31 March 1996, thereby enabling the closure of the unit by 31 March 1997.

Net Pingers

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the contribution net pingers could make to the safe interaction of dived submarines and fishing vessels; and if he will make a statement. [33126]

Mr. Soames: My Department takes its responsibility for ensuring that fishing vessels can operate safely in areas of submarine activity very seriously. The use of net pingers as a means of enhancing the safe interaction of dived submarines and fishing vessels is one of a number of measures we have carefully considered during extensive consultation with the fishing industry. However, both the Royal Navy and fishermen's representatives have major reservations about the effectiveness of net pingers and, in particular, are concerned that the absence of pinger soundings can never mean that no fishing is taking place. I have, therefore, concluded that, in accordance with the firm views expressed by fishermen's representatives and the Royal Navy, the trial announced in the House by my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Sir A. Hamilton) on 15 June 1992, *Official Report*, column *425*, should be discontinued.

I am confident that the comprehensive package of measures that we have introduced in recent years, including the code of practice which governs the conduct of dived submarines in waters frequented by fishing vessels, and the SUBFACTS broadcast system, provides for the safe co-existence of submarines and fishing vessels. Notwithstanding this, we will continue to monitor closely the effectiveness of these measures and to consider any proposals on how safety might be further enhanced.

Helicopter Accident

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what standing instructions were in force on 2 June 1994 concerning preferred routes for Aldergrove-based helicopters flying at low level to Fort George or Inverness; and what changes have been made to those instructions. [31637]

Mr. Soames: There are no such instructions in place. The crew would have selected the most appropriate route.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the authorising officer at RAF Aldergrove, who approved the flight of Chinook ZD576 from Aldergrove to Fort George on 2 June 1994, was given special instructions relating to the high security status of the personnel travelling on the flight. [31635]

Mr. Soames: No special instructions were required.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what altitude restrictions due to the possibilities of icing were in force for Chinook flights from Northern Ireland to the north of Scotland at the time of the flight of Chinook ZD576 on 2 June 1994. [31631]

Mr. Soames: There were no specific altitude restrictions in place for that particular flight. The aircraft icing limitation was +4° celsius and the crew would have sought to avoid flight above the +4° celsius isotherm in cloud because of the potential icing hazard.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the minimum authorised altitude for the flight of Chinook ZD576 from Aldergrove to Fort George on 2 June 1994; and by whom this minimum altitude was laid down. [31623]

Mr. Soames: The minimum authorised altitude of 50 ft. above ground or sea level was in keeping with No. 1 group support helicopter air staff orders, authorised by the Air Office Commanding.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what were the latitude and longitude of *(a)* the first and *(b)* the second planned turning points after leaving Aldergrove on the route of Chinook ZD576 to Fort George on 2 June 1994; and if they were known to the board of inquiry into the aircraft's accident. [31639]

Mr. Soames: The board of inquiry determined that the latitude and longitude of the planned turning points were *(a)* N55° 18.5' WOO5° 48' and *(b)* N56" 43' WOO5° 14'.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the global positioning system equipment on board Chinook ZD576 was found to have been *(a)* serviceable and *(b)* in use at the time of the crash on 2 June 1994. [31627]

Mr. Soames: *(a)* Yes. *(b)* Yes.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many hours each of the two pilots of Chinook ZD576 on 2 June 1994 had flown *(a)* in total and *(b)* on Chinooks. [31633]

Mr. Soames: The information is as follows:

Captain of the flight: *(a)* 3,165 hours *(b)* 683 hours

Co-pilot: *(a)* 2,867 hours *(b)* 1,492 hours

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the height above sea level of the initial impact of Chinook ZD576 on 2 June 1994. [31625]

Mr. Soames: Eight hundred and ten feet above mean sea level.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the flight of Chinook ZD576 from Aldergrove to Fort George on 2 June 1994 was found to have been properly authorised *(a)* at station level and *(b)* by RAF West Drayton. [31636]

Mr. Soames: *(a)* Yes *(b)* Yes.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the planned en route ground speed of Chinook ZD576 for its flight to Fort George on 2 June 1994; and what was the estimated speed of the aircraft at impact. [31624]

Mr. Soames: The planned ground speed was 120 knots and the estimated ground speed at impact was 150 knots. The weather indicated a tailwind component.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours had been flown by each of the two pilots killed in the Chinook crash on 2 June 1994 *(a)* on previous flights on the day of the accident and *(b)* during the 30 days up to 2 June 1994. [31640]

Mr. Soames: The information is as follows:

Captain of the flight: *(a)* 5 hours 40 minutes *(b)* 59 hours

Co-pilot: *(a)* 5 hours 40 minutes *(b)* 20 hours

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if each of the two pilots of Chinook ZD576 on 2 June 1994 had been given special clearances to fly passengers of high security status. [31628]

Mr. Soames: No such clearances were required.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the crew of Chinook ZD576 were informed of the high security status of their passengers from Aldergrove to Fort George on 2 June 1994 prior to planning their route for the flight. [31634]

Mr. Soames: Yes.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if Chinook ZD576 was equipped with any form of electronic map or route display for its flight on 2 June 1994. [31626]

Mr. Soames: RAF Chinooks carry automatic chart displays in the cabin to provide secondary information to the loadmasters on the position of the aircraft. The board of inquiry was unable to establish whether the automatic chart display was in use during the flight.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the sortie planning for the flight of Chinook ZD576 from Aldergrove to Fort George included, at any stage, consideration of a flight at medium altitude. [31630]

Mr. Soames: Yes, but this was rejected because of the poor weather forecast.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what magnetic compass heading the Chinook ZD576 was flying immediately prior to impact; 2 June 1994; and what evidence there was that the aircraft had altered its heading in its last few minutes of flight. [31638]

Mr. Soames: The compass heading at impact is not known. The board of inquiry determined that the magnetic track, which indicates the actual direction flown across the ground, was 025° at impact. There was no evidence of any significant heading change prior to impact.

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what revisions have been made to the syllabus for training of Royal Air Force Chinook aircrew as a result of lessons learned from the inquiry into the crash on 2 June 1994. [31338]

Mr. Soames: Existing poor weather abort instructions have been reinforced and issued to all helicopter aircrew to remind them of the procedures to follow in weather conditions where it is unsafe to continue flying under visual flight rules.

Helicopters

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes have been made to RAF procedures for authorising officers to scrutinise route plans for low level helicopter sorties since 2 June 1994. [31629]

Mr. Soames: None.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the regulations governing the lookout duties of loadmaster crew on RAF Chinooks during personnel transport flights at low level in bad weather. [31632]

Mr. Soames: Where their primary duties in the aircraft cabin permit, loadmasters on RAF Chinooks are required to maintain a look out in their field of view.

Low Flying

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the minimum permitted altitude for air defence aircraft carrying out interceptions of ground attack aircraft flying at 100 ft above ground level in tactical training areas. [31334]

Mr. Soames: Two hundred and fifty feet minimum separation distance subject to prior approval by headquarters military air traffic operations.

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the mandatory westward flow control for low-flying military aircraft in Glencoe includes the area between Glencoe village and the Ballachulish bridge. [31341]

Mr. Soames: No.

Tartan Warrior

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sorties were flown during the recent exercise Tartan Warrior; how many of these were by ground attack aircraft; and what was the minimum permitted altitude for the ground attack aircraft involved in the exercise. [31336]

Mr. Soames: A total of 289 sorties were flown during the exercise, of which 200 were by ground attack aircraft. The minimum permitted altitude for the majority of the low-level sorties flown by ground attack aircraft was 250 ft minimum separation distance with a small proportion of sorties permitted down to 100 ft minimum separation distance.

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advance information was given to the media concerning Exercise Tartan Warrior; and if he will list those media organisations to whom the information was sent. [31340]

Mr. Soames: Exercise Tartan Warrior was a small-scale squadron training exercise and in the circumstances advance information was not given to the media about all of the activity involved. Details of the use of Tain air weapons range were provided to Moray Firth Radio and to Aberdeen Journals Ltd.

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the ground attack sorties during exercise Tartan Warrior involved carriage of live weapons. [31339]

Mr. Soames: Five sorties involved carriage of live weapons for practice ground attacks on Garvie Island weapons range.

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the aim of the recent Tartan Warrior exercise; how many aircraft and of what types took part; and what plans he has for further exercises in this series. [31335]

Mr. Soames: The aim of the exercise was to provide both routine squadron training, and work-up prior to Exercise Air Warrior in the USA, for No. 41 Sqn RAF Coltishall. The following aircraft took part:

Ten Jaguar GR1As

Six Tornado GR1s

Eight Tornado F3s

Eight USAF F15s

A further exercise in the headquarters No. 1 group Tartan series involving No. 6 Sqn RAF Coltishall is planned for October 1995.

Uists and Benbecula (Military Personnel)

Mr. Macdonald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the connection between the presence of military personnel on the Uists and Benbecula and the planned disposal of the Brent Spar. [32377]

Mr. Soames: None.

Mr. Macdonald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military personnel were present on the Uists and Benbecula on 20 June; and if any were members of the special forces. [32372]

Mr. Soames: The only military personnel present on the Uists and Benbecula on 20 June were those permanently attached to the Royal Artillery Range Hebrides and RAF Benbecula, and a unit of the RAF Regiment which was participating in a two-week training exercise on Benbecula. This exercise had been arranged some time in advance.

Dartmouth Royal Regatta

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the French Government which resulted in sending a French naval warship to the Dartmouth royal regatta; and what plans he has for informing hon. Members of the proposals. [32597]

Mr. Soames: I understand that a French Navy navigational training ship will be visiting Dartmouth at the time of the Dartmouth royal regatta. This has been arranged through the usual naval channels which apply for visits of ships from other NATO navies. I am pleased to say that, due to changed operational requirements, it will be possible for HMS Orwell, a River class minesweeper which is the Dartmouth navigational training ship, to visit Dartmouth during the royal regatta.

Welfare Grants

Ms Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31315]

Mr. Freeman: In 1993–94, my Department paid approximately £19 million to 34 voluntary sector organisations or bodies through grants for services related to welfare work for the armed forces and their families, and in the area of education and training. In addition to this it paid approximately £900,000 towards the cost of running organisations such as help, information, volunteer exchanges–HIVES–and homestart bureaux at numerous armed forces' bases in the United Kingdom and abroad.

For 1994–95, the figures were approximately £18 million to 34 organisations and £1 million to bureaux.

Defence Research Agency

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the countries for which work has been carried out in each of the last three years by Defence Research Agency. [31366]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 5 July 1995:

In today's written answer the Secretary of State for Defence advised you that I would respond to your question about which countries for which the Defence Research Agency (DRA) has carried out work in each of the last three years since I am the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), which now includes the DRA.

I have listed below the countries with which the DRA has had contracts in the last three years. The excludes countries or organisations with which we have collaborative agreements on scientific and technical work and with which we may have cooperated in the period.

1992–93	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Denmark	Australia	Australia
France	Bahrain	Bahrain
Germany	Brunei	Brunei
Italy	Canada	Canada
Japan	Denmark	Republic of China
Netherlands	France	Denmark
Portugal	Germany	France
Saudi Arabia	Italy	Germany
Spain	India	Hong Kong
Sweden	Japan	Hungary
Switzerland	Netherlands	India
USA	New Zealand	Italy
	Norway	Japan

1992–93	1993–94	1994–95
	Pakistan	Malta
	Peru	Netherlands
	Portugal	Norway
	Republic of Ireland	Pakistan
	Saudi Arabia	Portugal
	Singapore	Saudi Arabia
	Spain	Singapore
	Sweden	Spain
	Switzerland	Sweden
	USA	Switzerland
		USA

Kenya

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military advice source support has been given to the Government of Kenya during each of the last three years. [31370]

Mr. Soames: It is not normally our practice to disclose precise details of military assistance given to any particular country as these are regarded as confidential between Governments. Over the past three years, military assistance to Kenya has mainly taken the form of places for Kenyan military personnel on training courses in the United Kingdom.

Atlantic Conveyor

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he made of the importance of the former Atlantic Conveyor to the Falklands campaign. [31720]

Mr. Soames: The Atlantic Conveyor played an important role in the Falklands conflict. The ship ferried vital naval Sea Harrier and RAF Harrier aircraft to the aircraft carriers. Her subsequent loss, with that of a number of naval and RAF helicopters and much urgently required stores still embarked, was a severe blow.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions have taken place between his Department and Cunard Steamship Company concerning the defence implications of the company's intention to sell the Atlantic Conveyor. [31732]

Mr. Soames: No discussions have taken place between my Department and the Cunard Steamship Company.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements were made for the availability to his Department of the Atlantic Conveyor since 1982. [31719]

Mr. Soames: The agreement between the Cunard Steamship Company and my Department covering the availability of the Atlantic Conveyor for defence purposes expired in January 1995. It is not my Department's policy to release the details of such agreements.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department was first notified by Cunard Steamship Company about its intention to sell the Atlantic Conveyor to a foreign owner. [31731]

Mr. Soames: The Cunard Steamship Company formally notified my Department of its intention to sell the Atlantic Conveyor in a letter dated 2 June 1995.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the financial contribution made by his Department towards the building of a replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor lost in the Falklands War. [31733]

Mr. Soames: The financial contribution made by my Department is commercially confidential.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department has made to ensure the continued availability of the Atlantic Conveyor for Britain's armed forces following her intended sale to a foreign bidder. [31718]

Mr. Soames: None.

Market Testing

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list for each of the last three financial years *(a)* those activities which have been subject to market testing and *(b)* those activities where an in-house bid has not been allowed. .. [32183]

Mr. Freeman: The following table lists, for each of the last three reporting periods, *(a)* those activities which have been subject to market testing that included a bid from the respective in-house organisation; and *(b)* those activities where an in-house bid was not allowed, that is, where the activity was strategically contracted out.

Winning bid by In-House Bid Team

1992–93

Gardening, Royal Marines, COMMACHIO Group

Gardening, Royal Marines, Lympstone

Gardening, Royal Marines Units, Poole

RAOC Print Section, Northern Ireland

Air Weapon Range, RAF Cowden

Support services, Gateway House, RAF Brize Norton

Aircraft Support Services, Boscombe Down

Elements of Experimental Flying Programme, Bedford/Boscombe Down

1993–94

Mechanical Handling Equipment, (repaid and maintenance), Devonport

18 Base Workshop, Army Base Repair Organisation, Bovington

1994–95

Financial Accounting, Defence Evaluation and Research Agency

Activity contractorised following a Market Test with In-House Bid

1992–93

Tailoring, Northern Ireland

Ration delivery service, Northern Ireland

Air Weapon Range, RAF Holbeach

Flight checking, 115 Squadron, RAF Benson

Inspectorate of Recruitment Exhibition Production Flight, RAF Henlow

IT Processing DIGITS Operators West, Devizes

Property Management, Central London

Mess catering, Boscombe Down

TRIDENT in-service support

1993–94

Second Line Engineering Support, Flag Officer Naval Aviation, Yeovilton

Industrial Mess (Catering and Stewardship function) Defence Postal and Courier Service, Mill Hill, London

Airfield services, RAF Gibraltar

1994–95

Nimrod Major Servicing Unit, RAF Kinloss

Activity contractorised (No In-House Bid)

1992–93

Gardening, Royal Marine School of Music, Deal

Harrier Aircraft Service Support, H.M.S. HERON

Helicopter Maintenance and Engineering Support, H.M.S. OSPREY, H.M.S. HERON and H.M.S. SEAHAWK

Simulator Helicopter Control Operations, H.M.S. OSPREY

Bielefeld bakery

Works Services, H.M.S. SEAHAWK

Works Services, H.M.S. DOLPHIN

Central Engineering Resources, Plant Hire, Long Marston

Food distribution in BAOR

Food distribution in rear combat zone (BAOR)

Line of Communications—Freight Service, (Low Countries)

Engineering and Supply (multi-activity contract), RAF Scampton

RAF/RN Elementary Flying Training, RAF Topcliffe

Domestic Services, MOD Police, Wethersfield

Works Service Maintenance, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Falkland Islands, Belize

Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston

Combat Systems Information Management Team

Guarding, Abby Wood

Relocating Reconnaissance Visits, Bristol

1993–94

NAAFI food study

Verbatim Court Recorders, Salisbury

Catering strategy study, UK Land Forces

Air Weapons Range, Rosehearty

Electronic Warfare training tasks, 360 Sqn, RAF Wyton

Government Pipleline and Storage System, (Operation and Maintenance)

Parachute Transport Flight, RAF Hullavington

Station Engineering Management Aid, (Maintenance Analysis and Computing Division), RAF Swanton Morley

Furniture repair, British Forces, Hong Kong

School Bus service, British Forces Hong Kong

Support entry, Met Office, Bracknell

1994–95

Wireless Stations (Operations and Maintenance), Inskip and Crimond)

Freight Service, Germany

Mobile Civilian Artisan Groups, Germany

Support for Parachute Training

The Queens Flight, (engineering support) RAF Northolt

Repaid of Defence Accommodation Stores, RAF Quedgeley

Curtain manufacture, British Forces Hong Kong

Food supply, British Forces Hong Kong

Support services, British Forces Hong Kong.

Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report*, column *717*, when the long-standing collaboration between the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment and the Institute of Aviation Medicine began. [31963]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his Answer of 16th March, asking when the long-standing collaboration between the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) and the Institute of Aviation Medicine (IAM) began, has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), which now includes both these establishments.

2. There was significant collaboration on the development of protective equipment for air crew from the early 1950's. It is possible that earlier collaboration between the precursor establishments of both CBDE and IAM on protection against the threat posed by chemical weapons occurred but we have been unable in the time available to trace record of this.

3. I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report*, columns *713–14*, what were the conclusions of each of the 21 safety audits carried out by his Department's Safety Services Organisation; and if he will place the reports of each of these audits in the Library. [31956]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your letter to the Secretary of State for Defence asking, pursuant to his answer of the 16 March, about the conclusions of the safety audits and for the reports to be placed in Library of the House of Commons, has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its divisions.

2. Safety audits carried out since 1987 found that CBDE is a highly safety oriented organisation with a workforce and management committed to ensuring a safe and health work environment.

3. In the most recent general safety audit the documentation and procedures were considered to be very good, particularly in the so-called high risk areas. Only minor deficiencies were identified and these were concerned with more general safety measures such as routine inspection of electrical equipment and the care and storage of personal protective equipment.

4. Safety audit reports contain some classified information, particularly in relation to the nature of the work being carried out at CBDE. It is not, therefore, considered to be appropriate to release copies.

5. I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which pieces of new equipment have been tested by the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment since 1980 in studies involving service

volunteers to assess the ability of service personnel to function with the equipment. [31970]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question asking the Secretary of State for Defence which pieces of new equipment have been tested by the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) since 1980 in studies involving Service volunteers has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, includes the CBDE as one of its divisions.

2. Items of new equipment under development which are tested in studies involving Service volunteers are subject to both defence security and commercial sensitivities. I am therefore limited in what I can say on this matter. However, I can tell you that the new individual protective equipment comprising of the No. 1 Mark IV NBC suit and the S10 respirator has been trialled in studies involving Service volunteers since 1980.

3. I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who has served as director or head of the Chemical and Biological Warfare establishment at Porton Down since 1965; and in which years each individual served as director or head. [31974]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence about the directors of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment's (CBDE) since 1965 has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, has included CBDE as one of its divisions.

2. CBDE's role is to carry out research to ensure that the United Kingdom Armed Forces are provided with effective and safe protective measures against the threat posed by chemical and biological warfare agents. From the late 1950s the work has been on purely defensive measures. The Establishment has had eight directors since 1965:

Mr. E. E. Haddon: 1961–1968

Mr. G. N. Gadsby: 1968–1972

Mr. T. F. Watkins: 1972–1974

Dr. R. G. H. Watson: 1974–1983

Dr. A. Bebbington: 1983–1984

Dr. G. S. Pearson: 1984–1995

Dr. G. D. Coley: 1995–

3. I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the annual report and accounts for the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment for 1994–95 is due to be published. [31973]

Mr. Freeman: We expect the National Audit Office to complete its audit of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment's 1994–95 accounts shortly. Subject to this, it is intended to lay a copy of the annual report and accounts before the House before the summer recess. Copies will be placed in the Library as soon as they are available.

Porton Technical Papers

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many scientific papers in the series called Porton technical papers were produced by the chemical warfare establishment at Porton Down since 1965; in which years these papers were produced; and how many of them are unclassified. [31967]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking about the scientific papers in the Porton Technical Papers series produced by the Chemical Warfare Establishment (CBDE) since 1965, has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, includes CBDE as one of its divisions.

2. The role of CBDE is to provide safe and effective protective measures to the United Kingdom Armed Forces against the threat of chemical and biological weapons. The United Kingdom unilaterally abandoned its offensive chemical and biological weapons capability in the late 1950's. Research at CBDE since this time has been concerned solely with providing a defence against chemical and biological warfare agents.

3. The Porton Technical Papers series closed in 1969. A total of 63 papers were published between 1965 and 1969. Seventeen of these 63 papers held at CBDE are unclassified. I regret that it would involve disproportionate costs to identify the exact years in which each of the papers was published and the present classification of the remainder.

4. I hope the information that I have been able to provide is helpful.

S6 Respirator

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report*, column *718*, in which years the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment carried out studies on the protection afforded by the S6 respirator when worn by human beings; what these studies entailed; what was the conclusion of these studies; which chemical warfare agents were used in these studies; and when the S6 respirator was issued for and withdrawn from use by the armed forces. [31961]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking, pursuant to his Answer of 16th March, about work at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) on the S6 respirator, has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, includes CBDE as one of its divisions.

2. The S6 respirator development programme commenced in the early 1950's. During this time a number of user trials were conducted by Service Units. These user trials were, however, not under the control of the then Chemical Defence Establishment (CDE) although personnel from CDE provided general advice on planning the trials and, on occasion, assisted the Unit personnel in conducting the trial. During these acceptability trials the respirator fit was assessed using the Unit's exposure chamber in which chloroacetophenone, a tear gas, was routinely employed. No studies

involving the use of chemical or biological warfare agents were conducted to assess the protection afforded by the S6 respirator.

3. In addition, to the user acceptability trials conducted by Service Units, studies were carried out between 1954 and 1964 at CDE using Service volunteers wearing the S6. These studies involved the use of simulant materials such a Bacillus globigii, a common organism found in hay and grassland throughout the UK and judged to present no hazard to health; common salt aerosols; and CS, a tear gas. Further studies measured the ingress of nitrogen into the respirator.

4. The S6 respirator was first issued to the Armed Forces in 1966 and its withdrawal from service began in 1986.

5. I hope this information helpful.

Nerve Agents

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report,* column *711*, what amount of BZ was given to the service volunteers; what tasks or exercises the volunteers undertook after they were given BZ; and how long these lasted, whether these were the first studies with BZ involving service volunteers; what medical countermeasures have been developed by CBDE against BZ; and when was the last time service volunteers were assessed to check whether or not the BZ studies have had any long-term effects. [31964]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter form J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of Defence asking, pursuant to his Answer of 16 March, various questions about the studies undertaken with the psychotropic drug BZ and Service volunteers has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Agency CBDE) as one of its divisions.

2. The volunteers were given dosages of BZ which equated to 7μg per Kg of body weight. The study was carried out under full medical supervision to identify the symptoms arising from exposure to BZ and no tasks or exercises were performed by the volunteers. The effects of exposure to BZ were of short duration and were completely resolved within three days in all cases. The volunteers were examined by the resident Army psychiatrist before and after their participation in the studies.

3. These studies were part of a series of investigations carried out in the early 1960's to determine the effects of exposure to BZ. A total of 21 Service volunteers were involved. No medical countermeasures to the effects of the psychotropic drug BZ have been developed CBDE.

4. I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report,* column *709*, what was the conclusion of the research work at Nancekuke to develop a specification for the material used in the preparation process of the nerve agent GB; when this conclusion was reached; and when the results of this research were exchanged with the United States of America, Canada and Australia. [31965]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his Answer of 16 March, about specifications for the production of the nerve agent GB and the dates of release of this information to the members of the technical collaboration panel, has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its divisions.

2. The specification for the materials to be used in the production of the nerve agent GB was arrived at through systemic process chemistry studies at laboratory and pilot plant stage. The specification was arrived at by January 1956. At this time the United Kingdom decided unilaterally to abandon its offensive chemical warfare programme and the pilot plant was filled with decontaminant in 1956.

3. The materials which were involved in the specification are listed below:

Isopropanol
Hydrogen Fluoride
Methane
Triethylamine
Sodium Hydroxide
Aluminium tumings
Aluminium chloride
Phosphorus trichloride
Methyl chloride
Oxygen
Sodium Chloride
Nitrogen

The research data from the development programme was shared with the United States, Canada and Australia over a number of years extending from 1945 to 1956.

4. I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research has been carried out on the nerve agent GE at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down since the closure of the nerve agent plant at Nancekuke; what quality of the nerve agent GE has been used in this research at Porton Down; when the results of this research were exchanged with other countries; and under which defence agreement these results were exchanged. [31966]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking for information of the work conducted with the nerve agent GE since the closure of CDE Nancekuke has been passed to me to reply as the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its divisions.

2. No research involving the nerve agent GE has been carried out at CBDE since the closure of CDE Nancekuke in 1979 as far as we are aware

3. I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what tests and studies have been carried out at the chemical warfare establishment at Porton Down on service volunteers with mustard gas since 1965; what was

the purpose of these tests; how the gas was administered to the volunteers; what was the conclusion of the tests and studies; when these tests were carried out; how many service volunteers were involved in these experiments; and where and on what dates the results of these tests were published in open literature. [31972]

Mr. Freeman: This a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence requesting information on the studies involving the chemical and biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) since 1965 has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, includes CBDE as one of its divisions.

2. The United Kingdom unilaterally abandoned its offensive Chemical and Biological Warfare capability in the late 1950's. Since then the role of the CBDE has been to provide safe and effective protection to the UK Armed Forces against the threat of chemical and biological weapons.

3. From 1965 studies with Service volunteers involving the use of the vesicant agent mustard were undertaken to determine the effectiveness of decontamination procedures and protective measures. Mustard agent, which is an oily liquid, was applied as small drops in patch tests. It would involve disproportionate costs to determine the exact number of volunteers exposed to mustard agent in the past thirty years. Our best estimate, however is that about 70% of volunteers in the late 1960's and 1970's were involved in studies of this nature. Research with Service volunteers and mustard agent ceased in the 1970's when reliable laboratory tests which did not require the use of this type of testing were developed. The results of the studies were not published in the open literature because of the defence sensitivity of this work.

4. I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report*, columns *714–15*, which CW agents were used in the studies into the mark IV NBC suit involving service volunteers. [31958]

Mr. Freeman: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from J. Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 5 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking, pursuant to his Answer of 16 March, about which Chemical Warfare agents were used in the studies into the Mk IV NBC suit involving Service volunteers has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Establishment (DERA) which, since April, includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its divisions.

2. No chemical warfare agents were used in studies involving the Mk IV NBC suit and Service volunteers. The protection afforded by the Mk IV NBC suit against chemical warfare agents was evaluated using laboratory techniques which did not require the use of Service volunteers.

3. I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the quantity of the nerve agent GB which is considered medically safe to be used in experiments involving service volunteers at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down; when this limit was set; and by whom. [31968]

Mr. Freeman: All studies involving the use of human subjects must be approved by the independent ethics committee before the study can begin. The committee must be satisfied that the study involves no harm to the health of the volunteers and that there is a military requirement for the investigation. The most recent studies involving the nerve agent GB with service volunteers used levels of nerve agent which produce meiosis in the volunteer. Meiosis is a well-known short-term effect of exposure to nerve agent vapour and there is no evidence that the volunteers experienced any long-term effects. The specific amount of nerve agent GB required to produce this level of response is a defence sensitive matter.

Chemical Weapons

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what details of Britain's past chemical warfare activities have to be disclosed to the relevant authority if Britain is to ratify the chemical weapons convention; to whom and when this information has to be disclosed; how many of his Department's staff are helping to prepare the document disclosing such past activities; where these staff are based; what records are being used to prepare such a document; and if he will make a statement. [31969]

Mr. Freeman: The United Kingdom will be required to make declarations of its past chemical weapons activities to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in accordance with article III of the chemical weapons convention not later than 30 days after it enters into force for the UK. MOD and other Whitehall officials, supported by CBDE staff, are currently formulating the draft declaration. Information has been collected from historical official documents, periodicals and visits to the sites concerned.

French Nuclear Tests

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advance information he received from the French about their decision to resume nuclear weapon testing; and what was his response. [32089]

Mr. Freeman: It is not our normal practice to reveal whether or not confidential advice has been received from other Governments.

Ballistic Missiles

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 25 May, to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark), *Official Report*, column *658*, what is the nature of the assumed threat to European security which necessitates the development of a ballistic missile system; and what is his estimate of the cost. [32087]

Mr. Freeman: In common with our NATO allies, we are concerned about the emerging risk posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We are currently engaged in work, both nationally and with allies, to determine our response. We await the outcome of the UK pre-feasibility study for advice on options and costs associated with ballistic missile defence. No procurement decisions have been taken.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Prisons (Segregated Visits)

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what criteria prisoners are allowed only segregated visits; how many prisoners are affected by this provision; and if it extends to legal and parliamentary visits. [32222]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Jeremy Corbyn, dated 5 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the criteria by which prisoners are only allowed segregated visits; the number of prisoners affected by this provision; and if it extends to legal and parliamentary visits.

A policy of closed visits for all exceptional risk category A prisoners was introduced on 19 June. Our assessment was that this was a necessary security measure for visits to prisoners in the highest security category. There are currently thirteen such prisoners. The policy applies to all visits including legal and parliamentary visits. Visits under open conditions may be allowed in the most exceptional circumstances with the agreement of an operational director of the Prison Service.

In addition, prison governors have discretion to impose closed visits for any prisoner in any other security category where control or security considerations make them necessary.

Danny McNamee

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date he received a submission on the case of Danny McNamee requesting referral to the Court of Appeal; and when he expects to be able to make a statement. [32223]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The submission enclosed with the hon. Member's letter of 7 September to my right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary was received on 12 September. I shall write to the hon. Member once consideration of this case has been completed.

Mentally Ill Prisoners

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 18 April, *Official Report*, columns *92–94*, what percentage of remand prisoners transferred to hospital under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 was *(a)* convicted and *(b)* received a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years. [31220]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from A. J. Butler to Mr. Paul Flynn, dated 5 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question asking what percentage of remand prisoners transferred to hospital under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 were *(a)* convicted and *(b)* received a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years.

The attached table gives the information requested for remand prisoners transferred to prison under section 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983. All prisoners transferred under section 47 of the Act have been convicted and sentenced. The relevant breakdown of 1994 data is not yet available.

Percentage of remand prisoners transferred to hospital under S.48 of The Mental Health Act 1983, between 1985 and 1993, who were (A) convicted and (B) received a custodial sentence[1]

		Convicted		*[2]Custodial sentences*	
Year	*Total admissions*	*Total*	*Percentage*	*Total*	*Percentage*
1985	41	34	83	1	2
1986	53	33	62	0	—
1987	77	64	83	1	1
1988	85	68	80	7	8
1989	100	79	79	9	9
1990	181	116	64	9	5
1991	264	175	66	9	3
1992	380	241	63	16	4
1993[3]	486	251	52	24	5

[1] This table covers all persons who were admitted to hospital on remand and subsequently disposed of at court.
[2] Excludes restricted hospital orders.
[3] In 1993, 24 persons were disposed of at court where the outcome was unknown.
Note:
1. In 1985, 1988, 1989 the admission figures include a small number of unrestricted patients, as given in the answer of 18 April. The convictions and custodial sentence figures, however, relate to restricted patients only. There is therefore a slight understatement in the percentages for these years.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 18 April, *Official Report*, columns *92–94*, what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners were transferred to hospital under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last 10 years. [31219]

Mr. Forsyth *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from A. J. Butler to Mr. Paul Flynn, dated 5 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the Office, to reply to your recent Question asking what percentage of (a) male and (b) female prisoners were transferred to hospital under section 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last 10 years.

The information requested is given in the attached table.

Percentage of male and female prisoners transferred to hospital under sections 47 and 48 of The Mental Health Act 1983 between 1985 and 1994

	Male prisoners		*Female prisoners*	
Year	*Transferred*[1]	*Percentage of average population*[2]	*Transferred*[1]	*Percentage of average population*[2]
1985	119	0.3	22	1.4
1986	139	0.3	21	1.3
1987	181	0.4	23	1.3
1988	185	0.4	21	1.2
1989	207	0.5	24	1.4
1990	304	0.7	33	2.1
1991	422	1.0	35	2.3
1992	553	1.3	57	3.6
1993	718	1.7	58	3.7
1994[1]	733	1.6	59	3.3

[1] Provisional figures still under revision.
[2] Source of population figures: "Prison Statistics England and Wales 1993" table 1.5, and "Home Office Statistical Bulletin", 8/95, table 1.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 18 April, *Official Report*, columns *92–94*, what was the average length of stay in hospital for prisoners transferred to hospital under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 *(a)* before sentence and *(b)* after sentence in each of the last 10 years. [31221]

Mr. Forsyth *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from A. J. Butler to Mr. Paul Flynn, dated 5 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question about the average length of stay in hospital for prisoners transferred to hospital under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 *(a)* before sentence and *(b)* after sentence in each of the last 10 years.

Information is only readily available for restricted patients since 1994. Based on those prisoners transferred to hospital under sections 47 and 48 of the 1983 Mental Health Act in the hospital population at the end of 1994, the average length of stay on remand was seven and a half months and the average length of stay under sentence was three years.

Domestic Violence

Ms Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases of women currently imprisoned as a result of conviction for *(a)* murder and *(b)* manslaughter of a male partner there was a recorded history of domestic violence. [31271]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 29 June 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from A. J. Butler to Ms Clare Short, dated 5 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question asking in how many cases of women currently imprisoned as a result of conviction for *(a)* murder and *(b)* manslaughter of a male partner there was a recorded history of domestic violence.

The cases of four women serving life sentences for murder are known to relate to domestic violence. I regret that no information is recorded centrally about the circumstances of manslaughter cases.

Prison Staff Pay

Sir Ivan Lawrence: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what considerations have been given to establishing new pay determination procedures for prison governors and prison officers under section 128 of the Criminal Justice and Public order Act 1994; and if he will make a statement. [32992]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: With the agreement of the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, I propose to establish pay procedures which are based on direct negotiation between management and the recognised staff representative organisations. This form of pay bargaining would support the need for management and unions jointly to develop the implement pay arrangements which reflect the unique range of duties undertaken in the respective prison services and the changing demands on staff and available resources. I also propose to make available two supplementary procedures in the event that all efforts to reach a negotiated settlement were unsuccessful. First, the services of an independent conciliator would be made available. Secondly, if conciliation did not lead to renewed negotiations, provision would be made for either party to request that the issue in dispute was considered by a mediation panel which would make formal recommendations to the parties. These mediation arrangements would require the creation of one or more standing bodies, independent of the three prison services and the unions.

Representative organisations and staff are being consulted on these proposals. Subject to the outcome, consideration will be given to laying before Parliament appropriate regulations under section 128 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.

Visitors (Gulf States)

Sir David Steel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visitors to the United Kingdom in 1994 came from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar; and how much they spent in the United Kingdom. [32202]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Exact figures are not available, but it is estimated that the number of visitors given leave to enter the United Kingdom in 1994 were:

Nationality	*Number of admissions of visitors*
United Arab Emirates	25,000
Bahrain	13,000
Qatar	10,000

The other information requested is not available.

Detainees

Mr. Robert Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 6 June, *Official Report*, column *135* which expensive ad hoc accommodation is now being used less to hold Immigration Act detainees; and if he will provide relevant comparative figures relating to the use of such accommodation in the current and previous two financial years. [32069]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The accommodation referred to includes short-term accommodation—up to five days, seven days if removal is to be effected within that period—provided by various private companies at ports of entry to the United Kingdom and police cells.

It is not possible without disproportionate effort to disaggregate the costs of such accommodation from overall detention costs. However, an average cost of a night's detention in police cells is £289, whereas a night in an immigration detention centre costs some £80.

Mr. Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department expects to spending in total on detaining persons under Immigration Act powers in the current financial year. [32053]

Mr. Baker: The immigration service estimates that it will spend some £13.725 million on detaining persons

under Immigration Act powers, including escorting and related costs, this year. Some of that cost will be recovered from carriers.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Robert Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish a breakdown of the number of asylum seekers currently detained under Immigration Act powers by *(a)* nationality, *(b)* gender, *(c)* length of detention, *(d)* place of detention and *(e)* immigration status at the time of application. [32071]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: As at 3 July 1995, a total of 690 persons who had at some stage sought asylum were detained. This figure includes people awaiting the setting of directions for removal following refusal of the application, as well as those whose applications were under consideration or subject to appeal. Of this figure, 199 had been in detention less than one month, 109 between one and two months, 255 between two and six months, 113 between six and 12 months, and 14 had been detained for longer than 12 months.

Information on the gender, immigration status, nationality and location of those detained as at 3 July 1995, is provided in tables 1 to 3.

Table 1: Number of people detained on 3 July 1995 who has sought asylum, by immigration status and gender

Immigration status	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Port case	320	37	357
Illegal entrant case	273	7	280
Deportation case	49	4	53
Total	642	48	690

Table 2: Number of people detained on 3 July 1995 who had sought asylum, by nationality

	Number
Albania	10
Algeria	75
Angola	6
Bangladesh	14
Bulgaria	4
Cameroon	1
China	77
Colombia	5
Cyprus	3
Czech Republic	4
Dominica	1
Equador	1
Egypt	2
Ethiopia	2
Gambia	5
Georgia	1
Ghana	59
Guinea-Bissau	1
India	94
Iran	8
Iraq	1
Ivory Coast	3
Jamaica	7
Jordan	1
Kenya	5
Lebanon	3
Library	6
Liberia	5
Mauritius	1
Morocco	6
Nepal	1
Niger	1
Nigeria	123
Pakistan	24
Peru	1
Poland	3
Romania	23
Russia	8
Rwanda	1
Sierra Leone	2
Somalia	3
South Africa	3
Sri Lanka	23
Sudan	1
Tanzania	8
Togo	1
Tunisia	1
Turkey	19
Uganda	5
Former Yugoslavia	12
Zaire	11
Zambia	1
Nationality not known	4
Total	690

Table 3: Number of persons detained who have claimed asylum as at 3 July 1995, by place of detention.

Place of detention	*Number detained*
Prisons/YOIs	
HMP Rochester	104
HMP Haslar	97
HMP Winson Green	45
HMP Greenock	26
HMP Wormwood Scrubs	9
HMP Bristol	5
HMP Belmarsh	3
HMP Brixton	3
HMYOI Brinsford	2
HMYOI Feltham	2
HMP Holloway	2
Other HM Prisons[1]	25
Total	323
Other places of detention	
Campsfield House	151
Harmondsworth	90
Gatwick Detention Centre	41
Dover Harbour Board	18
Queens Building	17
Newhaven	12
Stansted	8
Manchester Airport Detention Suite	2
Police Cells	28
Total	367
Grand total	690

[1] May also include HM prisons already listed.

Mr. Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measurable benefit has been achieved by the increased use of Immigration Act powers of detention in asylum cases since 1993; at what financial cost; and if he will make a statement. [32052]

Mr. Baker: It is not possible to identify separately the cost of detaining asylum seekers as no distinction is made between these cases and others where a person is detained under Immigration Act powers. However, the overall cost of running the immigration detention estate, including escorting and related costs, was:

1993–94 financial year—£7.46 million; and

1994–95 financial year—£11.35 million.

These figures reflect the greater number of places available in the immigration detention estate since the opening in November 1993 of Campsfield House.

The use of detention is an important factor in ensuring effective immigration control and its cost is offset by reclaiming money from carriers in appropriate cases.

Mr. Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 12 June, *Official Report*, column *382*, what was the period in working days between receipt of the appeal and promulgation of the determination of the appeal in *(a)* without foundation cases and *(b)* substantive cases in the first quarter of 1995; and if he will provide the corresponding figures for each quarter of 1994. [32068]

Mr. Baker: The information requested is shown in the table:

Average time taken[1] (in working days) to determine appeals against refusal of asylum, by type of refusal, January 1994 to March 1995

	Without foundation appeals	*Substantive appeals*
1994		
January—March	34 days	54 days
April—June	42 days	58 days
July—September	40 days	80 days
October—December	45 days	92 days
1995		
January—March	40 days	116 days

[1] The time period referred to is the number of working days between the date the appeal is sent to the Independent Appellate Authority and the date of its determination. It does not include the time taken by the Home Office to process and despatch the appeal to the IAA.

Forged Immigration Documents

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to make greater use of computer technology to aid the detection of forged immigration documents. [32207]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Computerisation of the warnings index for arriving passengers has permitted machine readable passports to be checked against lists of stolen documents by swiping them through a reader. All ports of entry are supplied with forgery detection equipment, but the principal methods of detection still rely on light sources—ultra violet and infra red—and microscopes rather than computer technology.

The Immigration Service uses computer technology in a variety of ways in the development of sophisticated document examination techniques. In co-operation with five other countries, the United Kingdom is involved in the introduction of an image retrieval system providing a comprehensive database of the world's travel documents on optical disk. The service also uses photophone technology to transmit high-definition, stored images of travel documents along telephone lines.

Prisons (Drug Counsellors)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many specialist drug counsellors are working in prisons in England and Wales. [31701]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from A. J. Butler to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 5 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question about how many specialist drug counsellors are working in prisons in England and Wales.

The Prison Service does not keep central records of the number of specialist drug counsellors working in prisons. A survey of 130 prisons conducted during December 1994 showed that 102 prisons provided specialist individual counselling for prisoners with drug misuse problems.

Individual counselling services are provided by community drug agencies, probation officers, prison psychologists and prison officers with counselling qualifications or experience.

This year the Prison Service is expanding the number and type of treatment programmes available to drug misusers. These include therapeutic communities; 3-month treatment programmes; detoxification units; intensive counselling and education services; and community-linked throughcare programmes. The first phase is being implemented in thirteen establishments with a further twelve by April 1996. The majority of these programmes will be provided by outside drug agencies under contract to the Prison Service. This initiative will increase the level of specialist drug counsellors working in prisons and will provide live training opportunities for prison staff.

In addition, all establishments are reviewing their local drug strategies with the aim of improving the coordination of local services for drug misusers.

Family Law

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals have been made, or studies sanctioned, by the Council of Ministers of the European Community concerning a convention on family law, including issues relative to custody of children following divorce. [31595]

Mr. John M. Taylor: I have been asked to reply.

In June 1994 the Council of Ministers instructed a working group of experts to prepare a draft convention on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters. In June 1995, the Council considered a progress report on this exercise and agreed that work on it should continue under the Spanish presidency and that the working group should continue to look into the possibilities of the convention covering custody orders made ancillary to divorce proceedings.

Drugs Prevention Teams

Mrs. Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the total level of public funding available in real terms to each drug prevention team in Merseyside since the inception of the drugs prevention initiative in 1990; and what will be the total level of public funds available for the new Merseyside drug prevention team for each of the next four years. [31541]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* The total level of public funding available to each drugs prevention team in Merseyside since the inception of the drugs prevention initiative in 1990 was as follows:

	1990–91 £	1991–92 £	1992–93 £	1993–94 £	1994–95 £
Liverpool	46,500	188,000	196,009	193,908	206,627
Wirral	—	86,770	185,974	186,597	200,436

The Liverpool team began on 10 December 1990, and the Wirral team began on 30 September 1991.

The total level of funding available to the new Merseyside drugs prevention team will not be known until its programme of work has been settled later this year.

Mrs. Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will provide a breakdown of estimated savings in each category of running costs that can be realised by merging the Wirral and Liverpool drugs prevention teams. [31578]

Mr. Forsyth *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* The objective in merging the Liverpool and Wirral drugs prevention teams was to make the benefits of the drugs prevention initiative available to many more people, not to make savings in running costs. Independent reviews of the initiative had recommended that the former teams be replaced by larger teams covering wider areas, to increase the opportunities for wider-reaching drugs prevention projects. The new Merseyside team covers all five boroughs of the county.

The comparative running cost figures are:

	Liverpool and Wirral teams (combined) 1994–95 £	*Merseyside team 1995–96* £
Staff costs	153,537	151,228
Accommodation	24,389	32,500
Other running costs	59,225	39,805
Grants	149,871	[1]—

[1] The level of funding available for grants will not be known until the team's programme of work is settled later this year.

Mrs. Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is his estimate of the total level of savings that will be achieved in each of the next four years by merging the Wirral and Liverpool drugs prevention teams. [31579]

Mr. Forsyth *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* The level of funding which the new Merseyside drugs prevention team will have available for making grants will not be decided until its programme of work is settled later this year. It is not therefore possible to estimate at this stage the extent to which there may be savings as a result of merging the Wirral and Liverpool drugs prevention teams.

Kani Yilmaz

Mr. Austin-Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter of 10 April from the hon. Member for Woolwich in respect of Kani Yilmaz; and if he will make a statement on the issues raised. [24924]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 18 may 1995]:* I have written to the hon. Member today.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Housing Benefit

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) if his departmental assistance with loans for home improvements are deemed to be housing costs in respect of paragraphs 5(4) and 5(5) of the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987. [31864]

(2) what representations he has had in regard to difficulties experienced by home owners whose mortgage interest payments are being met by his Department, who have had to temporarily move to alternative accommodation while extensive renovation work is being carried out and who are deemed ineligible for housing benefit. [31907]

Mr. Roger Evans: Home improvement loans which attract assistance from this Department are not considered to be housing costs for the purpose of determining entitlement to housing benefit. I have received no representations about home owners in these circumstances.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what percentage of parliamentary questions, which would have been answered directly by him or his Ministers prior to the establishment of executive agencies, are now referred to the chief executive of such an agency. [28490]

Mr. Hague: The information is in the table.

Session	*Number of questions*	*Percentage replied to by agencies*
1992–93[1]	3,305	10.86
1993–94[1]	2,365	14.08
1994–95[1,2]	2,046	9.77

Notes:

[1] These figures have been provided using the POLIS database. It is not possible to guarantee that this is a truly comprehensive figure.

[2] Up to Monday 26 June 1995.

Family Credit

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what increase in family credit payments is expected in the first year of the jobseeker's allowance as a result of the allowance encouraging self-employment. [31661]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information is not available.

Consultants

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list all consultants who have been retained by his Department in the past three years to advise on any aspect of *(a)* the reduction in state protection for mortgage interest payments and the encouragement of a private insurance market for mortgage protection, *(b)* the introduction of incapacity benefit or *(c)* the introduction of the jobseeker's allowance. [32051]

Mr. Roger Evans: The Department of Social Security has retained the services of the following consultants to advise on the issues raised by the hon. Member:

Issue	*Company*	*Number of consultants*
(a) The reduction in state protection for mortgage interest payments and the encouragement of a private insurance market for mortgage protection.	No consultants retained	nil
(b) The introduction of incapacity benefit	Andersen Consulting	88
	CSS Trident	25
(c) The introduction of the jobseeker's allowance	Coopers and Lybrand	1
	PA Consulting Group	2
	Andersen Consulting	5
	Computer People	55
	Cray Systems	5
	ICL	3
	NESCO	72
	SEMA Group	15
	Taskforce	3

Incentives To Work

Mr. Tim Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security when he intends to publish further details of his plans to improve incentives to work for people in lower-paid employment; and if he will make a statement. [33088]

Mr. Roger Evans: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Social Security has today published a consultation paper, "Piloting change in Social Security—Helping people into work". This sets out the Government's proposals to test out in eight pilot areas a new in-work benefit. The benefit is designed to make work more rewarding for those with limited earnings power, by enhancing their earnings. It is called earnings top-up.

It will be directed towards people without dependent children and will complement family credit, which already helps some 600,000 lower paid workers with children.

The proposed earnings top-up will increase the rewards of work by an average of about £23 a week for a couple without dependent children and about £19 for a single person of 25 or over. The Government propose to test the effectiveness of two different rates in the pilot areas. The maximum level of help could be up to £54 a week.

The proposals mark the first occasion in the UK in which a social security benefit will be tested out on a pilot basis. The extension of in-work benefits to all people on low incomes would be a major step. There is no experience from any other country on which to draw. So it is right to establish its effectiveness by testing it on a local basis before deciding whether or not to develop a national scheme. Such a decision would only be taken if the pilot scheme proves its worth.

The pilot scheme will cost about £75 million over three years, before taking account of behavioural effects. Parliamentary approval for expenditure on the scheme will depend on the Appropriations Act via an appropriate reference in the departmental estimates. Introduction of a new benefit on a local and temporary basis does not require express statutory authority. The scheme will be subject to detailed rules governing conditions of entitlement, claiming and other matters normally covered in regulations. These will be set out in a publicly available document and Parliament will be given an opportunity to discuss its principle and details. If it is decided to proceed from a temporary pilot to a permanent national scheme, the Government will introduce the necessary primary legislation.

The Government believe that there is a case for extending in-work benefits in this way, but it is not yet proven. People with limited skills and experience may have earning power not much above the level of their out-of-work benefit entitlement. As a result, the net reward for, and incentive to, work is not great.

To forbid employers to pay less than a minimum level of pay would merely mean that anyone unable because of their limited skills, aptitudes and experience to contribute more in value than that minimum would no longer be able to find employment. The ideal solution is, of course, to increase people's earning power by improving their skills, educational attainments and experience. All the Government's education and training reforms are geared to that objective. But most valuable skills and experience are obtained at work. Social security can, therefore, help by making it more rewarding to work, thereby enabling people to get on the first rungs of the ladder of employment, climbing further as they acquire experience and skills.

The consultation document sets out the criteria on which we propose to define and select the eight pilot areas in which earnings top-up will be paid, together with four control areas. It includes a shortlist of 28 areas from whcih the final selection is likely to be made, subject ot the outcome of the consultation. Since the decision on whether or not to proceed to national implementation will be governed by the outcome of the pilot, we attached great importance to getting the pilot areas right and establishing a robust framework for evaluation.

Our present plans are to pay earnings top-up in the pilot areas in the same way as other social security benefits. But we propose also to discuss with employers the feasibility of paying the top-up alongside the wage package, in order to make clearer to recipients the increased gain form working. Depending on the outcome of the discussions, the pilot scheme may be enhanced to test out how this might work in practice. Participation by employers in such a scheme would be voluntary.

The decision to pilot a new benefit locally before deciding whether to introduce it nationally represents a radical departure for social security policy. It will increase the openness and effectiveness of policy making. It is also a major step in seeking solutions to the problems of unemployment, work incentives and the dispersion of earnings power affecting the least skilled. These are problems which every developed country faces. The UK is already a pioneer in its successful use of in-work benefits such as family credit to improve work incentives. We now aim to explore whether to go further.

Social Fund

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the estimated cost to local government of refusal of social fund applications on housing revenue accounts. [32227]

Mr. Roger Evans: None.

Mr. Corbyn : To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the running costs of the social fund as a proportion of annual net payments for each of the last three years. [32228]

Mr. Evans: Social fund administration costs are met separately from expenditure from the regulated and discretionary fund. In 1992–93, the social fund cost £208 million to administer and £270 million in 1993–94. Details of the administration costs for 1994–95 are not yet available and will be published in the next departmental report.

The ratio of social fund administration costs to net payments from the discretionary and regulated fund was 0.98 in 1992–93 and 1.18 in 1993–94. It is more valid to relate administrative expenditure and gross expenditure, including recoveries, and on the basis the ratio was 0.35 in 1992–93 and 0.41 in 1993–94.

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list the total net cost of the social fund for each of the last three years and the total cost of the single payment system for the last three years of its operation. [32229]

Mr. Evans: The total net cost of the regulated and discretionary social fund was £212 million in 1992–93; £229 million in 1993–94 and £217 million in 1994–95.

The total cost of single payments was £308 million in 1985–96; £370 million on 1986–87 and £198 million in 1987–88

The figures quoted are given in cash prices for the relevant years.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many claims for assistance from the social fund at Doncaster and Mexborough benefit offices were made in the year 1994–95; how many were accepted; how many were refused; and what was the figures for the previous year. [31093]

Mr. Evans: The administration of the social fund is a matter for Mr. Ian Magree, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member with such information as is available.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Martin Redmond, dated 4 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about claims to the Social Fund in the Doncaster and Mexborough benefit offices for 1993–94 and 1994–95.

With the creation of the Benefits Agency in April 1991, offices were grouped into Districts. Information has therefore been supplied for the Doncaster and the Rother and Dearne Districts Mexborough Branch Office is one office within the Rother and Dearne District and figures for it cannot be given separately.

Information regarding Funeral Payment (FP) and Maternity Payment (MP) refusals is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. This is because the precise data could only be gathered by a special scan of the Social Fund Computer System. However, I have provided estimated figures for your information.

Information for the Doncaster District is provided at Annex A and for Rother and Dearne at Annex B.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Annex A: Number of applications, awards and refusals, Doncaster district: 1993–94 and 1994–95

Application type	*Applications*	*Awards*	*Refusals*
1993–94			
Budgeting loan	9,695	5,809	3,925
Community care grant	6,767	1,511	5,334
Crisis loan	4,948	3,810	964
Funeral payment	597	404	193
Maternity payment	1,605	1,386	219
1994–95			
Budgeting loan	9,302	5,828	3,909
Community care grant	7,156	1,784	5,547
Crisis loan	5,404	4,144	1,129
Funeral payment	520	348	172
Maternity payment	1,594	1,350	244

The refusal figures for FP and MP have been approximated by deducting awards from applications. No account has been taken of withdrawn applications.

Annex B: Number of applications, awards and refusals, Rother and Dearne district 1993–94 and 1994–95

Application type	*Applications*	*Awards*	*Refusals*
1993–94			
Budgeting loan	11,867	6,847	4,487
Community care grant	9,237	3,167	6,015
Crisis loan	3,969	2,902	959
Funeral payment	847	595	252
Maternity payment	2,083	1,823	260
1994–95			
Budgeting loan	11,394	7,378	4,592
Community care grant	9,144	3,153	6,211
Crisis loan	4,012	2,839	1,027
Funeral payment	779	502	277
Maternity payment	2,121	1,762	359

The refusal figures for FP and MP have been approximated by deducting awards from applications. No account has been taken of withdrawn applications.

National Insurance

Mr. Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) how many staff he has devoted to ensuring that employers are properly paying national insurance contributions in respect of those they employ. [31273]

(2) how many cases for recovery of *(a)* underpayment and *(b)* non-payment of national insurance contributions his staff have pursued in each of the last three complete years; how much extra revenue for the national insurance fund was recovered; in how many cases formal action through the courts was undertaken. [31274]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The administration of the national insurance scheme is a matter for Mrs. Faith Boardman, the chief executive of the Contributions Agency. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mrs. Faith Boardman to Mr. Jim Cousins, dated 4 July 1995:

As Chief Executive of the Contributions Agency, I have responsibility for answering questions about operational matters relating to the Agency and the National Insurance (NI) scheme.

I have been asked to reply to your questions about the numbers of staff ensuring employers are paying National Insurance contributions (NICs) and about details of recovery of underpayment and non-payment of NICs. In view of the nature of the questions I have combined the responses.

Unfortunately the information is not available exactly in the form that you have requested.

One of the Agency's main aims is to ensure compliance with the law in respect of NICs. The operational area in regular face-to-face contact with employers is Field Operations, whose NI inspectors visit over 100,000 employers each year to monitor their compliance with NI law. There are currently 3,440 staff in post in Field Operations, including as at 31 March 1995 1,780 staff holding Inspectors' Warrants.

In addition to the Agency's Field Operations inspectorate force a number of our other operational sections, centrally based on Tyneside, are also concerned with correcting errors made by employers in their payment of NICs and pursuing collection of any arrears identified.

As far as the pursuit of arrears of NICs from employers is concerned, separate statistics are not kept that allow us to differentiate between cases where NICs have not been paid, rather than underpaid. Whenever inspectors survey (visit) an employer they will ensure that action is taken to correct any mistakes. In cases where earlier tax years are concerned the inspector will arrange to collect any arrears due or refer the case to Inland Revenue Audit, under liaison arrangements, for them to arrange collection.

Details of the numbers of surveys undertaken in the three years 1991/92, 1992/93 and 1993/94, together with the number where errors were discovered and the sums subsequently collected are given in the table I am attaching as Annex 1. Results for 1994/95 have not yet been finalised.

In general, self-employed people have a liability to pay Class 2 NICs unless they hold a certificate of exception from payment on the grounds of low earnings. During 1994/95 the Agency pro-actively identified 50,748 persons with an immediate requirement to pay Class 2 contributions. Similar figures for earlier years were not kept.

The table in Annex 2 shows the number of cases in which a summons or writ was issued by either the Agency or the Department's Solicitor's office in each of the last three years. Figures are also given for the number of cases where summonses were issued by the Scottish Office on behalf of the Agency.

The table in Annex 3 shows the number of cases authorised for criminal prosecution in each of the last three years. Records have not been kept of the number of these cases which finally resulted in a Court Hearing. Not all cases in which criminal prosecution was authorised relate to non-payment or underpayment of NICs; some will have resulted from other offences against the NI Acts, and separate figures are not kept.

I regret that I have been unable to answer the precise questions that you have raised, but I hope that my reply proves helpful. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Results of contributions agency surveys

Year	Number of surveys	Number where errors found	Amount of NIC's collected by CA £ million	IR[1] £ million
1991–92	106,422	48,546	5.00	6.31
1992–93	118,038	467,899	8.78	10.61
1993–94	131,634	656,145	15.69	11.30

[1] Under Liaison arrangements some arrers of national Insurance contirbutions identified on survey are collected by Inland Revenue.

Annex 2: Number of Civil Proceedings Cases

Year	[1]Number of Summons/Writs Issued CRS	Solicitors	Scotland
1992–93	36,929	3,451	1,780
1993–94	58,409	2,467	2,256
1994–95	71,368	1,213	2,172

[1] The figure for Solicitor's Office includes cases where formal action was commenced on Insolvency or Bankruptcy procedures.

Annex 3: Criminal proceedings cases

Year	Number of cases authorised
1992–93	81
1993–94	53
1994–95	13

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Graham Riddick: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many asylum seekers there were in May in each year since 1988; how many of those who applied in each such month have been granted asylum in the United Kingdom; how many are still in the United Kingdom; and what was the annual cost to his Department of asylum seekers in each of the years specified. [32070]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is given in the table. Figures for years prior to 1992 are not available.

It is not known how many of those granted either asylum or exceptional leave have remained in the United Kingdom.

Decisions[1] on applications[1] for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, submitted in May of each year from 1992 to 1995

	May 1992	May 1993	May 1994	May 1995
Asylum applications[2]	1,370	1,865	2,650	3,450
Decisions[2] on those applications	605	920	835	nya
Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	40	35	20	nya
Not recognised as a refugee but granted exceptional leave to remain[3]	285	160	150	nya
Total refused[4]	280	720	665	nya
Applications withdrawn	105	80	60	nya
Applications undecided	660	865	1,755	nya
Average cost per case for year quoted[5]	—	£175	£185	*£165

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5 with '..' = not available and 'nya' = not yet available.

[2] Figures exclude information on applications made overseas.

[3] Usually granted for a year in the first instance, subject then to further review.

[4] Including refusals on third country grounds and refusals under paragraph 340 of Immigration Rules.

[5] Cost of asylum determination staff per initial asylum decision.

[6] Average for January to May 1995.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Milk

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to what use money paid by British farmers in fines for overproduction of milk is put. [31667]

Mr. Jack: Money collected in the form of a levy on over-quota milk is used to stabilise the market in milk and milk products and to help offset the costs of storing and disposing of surplus milk within the European Union.

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what representations he has received regarding the standards of calibration in milk tests for British farmers. [31669]

Mr. Jack: A number of representations have been received linking calibration standards to the outcome of butterfat test results. There are, however, a large number of factors which can cause variations in butterfat test results, of which calibration is only one.

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what assessment he has made of the effect on British farmers of current practices in the testing of milk in relation to farmers in other EEC countries and their methods of testing milk. [31671]

Mr. Jack: The EEC Commission's chemical experts' group in milk and milk products has issued a questionnaire to all member states covering the calibration of instruments, inter-laboratory comparisons within member states and inter-laboratory comparisons between member states. Returns are being considered and I would not wish to pre-empt the Commission's findings.

Beef

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the nature of the irregularities in the UK beef intervention system which are to result in the European Commission imposing a fine on the United Kingdom Government; and if he will make a statement. [31941]

Mr. Waldegrave *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* The Commission's special inquiry into the arrangements applying to the intervention of beef in several member states highlighted a number of control weaknesses. Before and during the time of the inquiry, the UK authorities uncovered irregularities concerning substitution and theft of beef destined for public storage, which were reported to the Commission. Improved procedures are now in place and action for the recovery of the relevant costs for these irregularities was taken. The level of financial correction proposed by the European Commission has not yet been finalised.

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1) what is his estimate of the amount of substandard beef held in intervention stocks in the United Kingdom in each of the last six years *(a)* in tonnes and *(b)* as a percentage of United Kingdom intervention stocks; [32354]

(2) how much beef currently in intervention in the United Kingdom is considered to be substandard *(a)* in tonnes and *(b)* as a percentage of United Kingdom intervention stocks. [32355]

Mr. Waldegrave: The Intervention Board became aware in 1991 of the presence in store of beef which was not of intervention standard. Subsequent investigations, which included a box by box examination of boned beef, have revealed a total of 404 tonnes which did not meet the intervention standards. The beef in question was taken into store in the period June 1990 to November 1993, the last month in which there was intervention buying of beef in the UK. Over that period total intake of beef was 261,000 tonnes, the ineligible quantity representing 0.15 per cent. of that figure. Current stocks total 9,354 tonnes of which about 2,000 tonnes are still being examined and may include further ineligible quantities. The full value of the ineligible beef has either been recovered or will be sought from the companies responsible for boning and packaging it for intake to the intervention stores.

Animal Diseases

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many cases of contagious equine metritis occurred in each year since 1985. [32298]

Mrs. Browning: Two cases of contagious equine metritis were reported in England—both in 1986.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will show, by type, the number of cases of fowl pest in each year since 1985. [32294]

Mrs. Browning: Fowl pests includes both Newcastle disease and avian influenza. One case of avian influenza was reported in England in 1992; the last reported case of Newcastle disease was in 1984.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many cases of peste des petits ruminants occurred in each year since 1985. [32296]

Mrs. Browning: No case of peste des petits ruminants has ever been reported in England.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy occurred in each year since 1985. [32371]

Mrs. Browning: Bovine spongiform encephalopathy was first identified in November 1986. Information on the incidence of the disease prior to this date is not recorded.

The following is a table of the number of confirmed cases of BSE in England up to 30 June 1995. The cases prior to 21 June 1988 are recorded by date of clinical onset of disease and the cases thereafter are recorded by date of restriction:

Year	*Number*
1986	7
1987	402
1988	2,256
1989	6,422
1990	12,612
1991	21,990
1992	31,115
1993	28,536
1994	20,300
1995	5,005

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans he has to test imported cattle for bovine immunedeficiency virus. [32246]

Mrs. Browning: None, since such testing is not required under EC rules. Furthermore, no routine reliable serological test is currently available for BIV.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many cases of African horse sickness occurred in each year since 1985. [32299]

Mrs. Browning: African horse sickness has never been reported in England.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many cases of rabies occurred in each year since 1967. [32295]

Mrs. Browning: Since 1967 there have been cases of rabies in the following years only:

1968: 1 (in quarantine)

1969: 4 (3 in quarantine)

1970: 1

1983: 1 (in quarantine)

1990: 1 (in quarantine)

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, how many cases of epizootic haemorrhagic virus disease occurred in each year since 1985. [32297]

Mrs. Browning: No case of epizootic haemorrhagic virus disease has ever been reported in England.

Oilseeds

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what proposals his Minister has made at the seminar on industrial markets for United Kingdom oilseeds on 13 June in respect of the rates of excise for biodiesel; and if he will make a statement. [32159]

Mr. Jack: At the seminar on industrial uses for UK oilseeds on 13 June, in response to a question about the possibility of relief from excise duties for biodiesel, my right hon. Friend said that pump-priming support, such as duty relief, was not ruled out, although much would depend upon work going on to establish the environmental benefits of biodiesel.

Food Hygiene

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the number of statutory instruments dealing with food hygiene in *(a)* manufactures' packers and processors, *(b)* retailers and *(c)* cooked food retailers during 1994 and for 1990 to the present. [32163]

Mr. Jack: For England and Wales, the number of statutory instruments dealing with food hygiene manufacturers' packers and processors during any part of 1994 was 28, and for retailers and cooked food retailers 14.

The number of statutory instruments dealing with food hygiene in manufacturers' packers and processors during any part of 1990 to the present was 38, and for retails and cooked food retailers 15.

Information on the statutory instruments is given in the following tables:

Table 1: Statutory Instruments dealing with Food Hygiene in Manufacturers' Packers and Processors

Regulation	*SI Number*	*Revoked (date given) or current*
A—Laid during 1994		
Poultry Meat		
The poultry meat, farmed game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1994	1994/1029	1 April 1995
Meat Products		
The Meat Products (Hygiene) Regulations 1994	1994/3082	Current
Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs		
The Food Safety (Live Bivalve Molluscs and Other Shellfish) (Import Conditions and Miscellaneous Ammendments) Regulations 19941994/2782Current		
The Food Safety (Fishery Products) (Import Conditions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 1994	1994/2783	Current
	1977/1805	1 January 1993
B—In force during 1990 to the present		
Fresh Meat		
The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1977	1977/1805	1 January 1993
The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations 1987	1987/2235	1 January 1993
The Meat Inspection Regulations 1987	1987/2236	1 January 1993
The Fresh Meat Export (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1987	1987/2237	1 January 1993
The Fresh Meat Export (Hygiene and Inspection) (Amendment) Regulation 1990	1990/2493	1 January 1993
The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1990	1990/2495	1 January 1993
The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene and Meat Inspection) (Amendment) Regulations 1991	1991/984	1 January 1993
The Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1992	1992/2037	1 April 1995
The Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995	1995/539	Current
Poultry Meat		
The Poultry Meat (Hygiene) Regulations 1976	1976/1221	1 May 1994
The Poultry Meat (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations 1979	1979/693	1 May 1994
The Poultry Meat (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations 1981	1981/1168	1 May 1994
The Poultry Meat (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations 1992	1992/2036	1 May 1994
The Poultry Meat (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations 1993	1993/209	1 May 1994
The Poultry Meat Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection 1995	1995/540	Current
Fishery Products and Live Bivalve Molluscs		
The Imported Food (Peruvian Feedingstuffs) Regulations 1991'	1991/370	Current
The Imported Food and Feedingstuffs (Safeguards Against Cholera) Regulations 1991'	1991/2486	Current

Table 1: Statutory Instruments dealing with Food Hygiene in Manufacturers' Packers and Processors

Regulation	*SI Number*	*Revoked (date given) or current*
The Imported Food and Feedingstuffs (Safeguards Against Cholera) (Amendment) Regulations 1991[1]	1991/2934	Current
The Imported Food (Safeguards Against Paralytic Toxin) (Pectinidae from Japan) Regulations 1992	1992/1122	Current
The Food Safety (Fishery Products) (Derogations) Regulations 1992	1992/1507	Current
The Food Safety (Live Bivalve Molluscs) (Derogations) Regulations 1992	1992/1508	Current
The Imported Food (Bivalve Molluscs and Marine Gastropods from Japan) Regulations 1992	1992/1601	Current
The Imported Food and Feedingstuffs (Safeguards Against Cholera) (Amendment) Regulations 1992[1]	1992/2364	Current
The Food Safety (Fishery Products) Regulations 1992	1992/3163	Current
The Food Safety (Live Bivalve Molluscs and Other Shellfish) Regulations 1992	1992/3164	Current
The Food Safety (Fishery Products on Fishing Vessels) Regulations 1992	1992/3165	Current
Milk and Milk Products		
The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959	1959/277	Current
The Milk and Dairies (General) (Amendment) Regulations 1977	1959/277	9 May 1995
Milk and Dairies (General) (Amendment) Regulations 1977	1977/171	9 May 1995
Milk and Dairies (General) (Amendment) Regulations 1979	1979/1567	9 May 1995
The Milk-Based Drinks (Hygiene and Heat Treatment) Regulations 1983	1983/1508	9 May 1995
The Milk and Dairies (Heat Treatment of Cream) Regulations 1983	1983/1509	9 May 1995
Milk—based Drinks (Hygiene and Heat Treatment) (Amendment) Regulations 1986	1986/720	9 May 1995
Milk and Dairies (Heat Treatment of Cream) (Amendment) Regulations 1986	1986/721	9 May 1995
The Milk and Dairies (Semi-skimmed and Skimmed Milk) (Heat treatment and Labelling) Regulations 1988	1988/2206	9 May 1995
The Milk and Dairies (Semi-skimmed and Skimmed Milk) (Heat treatment and Labelling) (Amendment) Regulations 1989	1989/2382	9 May 1995
The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1989	1989/2383	9 May 1995
The Milk and Dairies (Semi-skimmed and Skimmed Milk) (Heat treatment and Labelling) (Amendment) Regulations 1990	1990/2491	9 May 1995
The Milk (Special Designation) (Amendment) Regulations 1990	1990/2492	9 May 1995
The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations (Amendment) Order 1992	1992/1208	9 May 1995
The Dairy Products (Hygiene) Regulations 1995	1995/1086	Current

Table 1: Statutory Instruments dealing with Food Hygiene in Manufacturers' Packers and Processors

Regulation	*SI Number*	*Revoked (date given) or current*
Egg Products		
The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963	1963/1503	14 October 1993
The Egg Products Regulations 1993	1993/1520	Current

[1] Also controls imports of other products.

Table 2: Statutory Instruments dealing with food hygiene in retailers and cooked food retailers

Regulation	*SI Number*	*Revoked (date given) or current*
A—LAID DURING 1994	n/a	n/a
B—IN FORCE DURING 1990 TO THE PRESENT		
Milk and Milk Products		
The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959[1]	1959/277	Current
Milk and Dairies (General) (Amendment) Regulations 1977[1]	1977/171	9 May 1995
Milk and Dairies (General) (Amendment) Regulations 1979[1]	1979/1567	9 May 1995
The Milk and Dairies (Heat Treatment of Cream) Regulations 1983[1]	1983/1509	Current
Milk and Dairies (Heat Treatment of Cream) (Amendment) Regulations 1986[1]	1986/721	9 May 1995
The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1989[1]	1989/2383	Current
The Milk (Special Designation) (Amendment) Regulations 1990[1]	1990/2492	9 May 1995
The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations (Amendment) Order 1992[1]	1992/1208	9 May 1995
The Dairy Products (Hygiene) Regulations 1995[1]	1995/1086	Current
Eggs		
The Ungraded Eggs (Hygiene) Regulations 1990	1990/1323	Current
General Food Hygiene		
The Food Hygiene (Docks, Carriers, etc.) Regulations 1960[2]	1960/1602	Current
The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966[2]	1966/791	Current
The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 1966[2]	1966/1487	Current
The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970[2]	1970/1172	Current
The Food Hygiene (Ships) Regulations 1982[2]	1982/1727	Current
The Food Hygiene (Revision of Penalties) Regulations 1982[2]	1982/1727	Current
The Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations 1990[2]	1990/1431	Current

Table 2: Statutory Instruments dealing with food hygiene in retailers and cooked food retailers

Regulation	SI Number	Revoked (date given) or current
The Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations 1991[2]	1991/1343	Current
The Food Premises (Registration) Regulations 1991[2]	1991/2825	Current
The Food Safety (Amendment) (Metrication) Regulations 1992[2]	1992/2597	Current

[1] Insofar as these apply to producer/retailers and distributors (eg milk roundsmen).

[2] These regulations are due for revocation under the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995 and the Food Temperature Control Regulations 1995, when these are laid before Parliament later this Session.

Common Agricultural Policy Fraud

Dr. Gavin Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1) how many cases of CAP fraud in the United Kingdom have been confirmed in each of the last six years *(a)* for each agricultural commodity and *(b)* in total; [32386]

(2) how many cases of intervention fraud in the United Kingdom have been confirmed in each of the last six years *(a)* for each agricultural commodity and *(b)* in total. [32385]

Mr. Waldegrave: Fraud is difficult to define, being a matter of criminal intention. However the UK, along with all other member states, is required to report cases of irregularity in CAP schemes, exceeding 4,000 ECUs, to the Commission. An irregularity is an overclaim on the part of the claimant, either deliberately or through error. The information for the six years in question is as follows:

Number of cases

Sector/Commodity/Scheme	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Farm based schemes	135	167	72	80	78	84
Beef special premium	—	—	—	—	2	6
Suckler cow premium	114	154	52	28	33	20
Sheep annual premium	18	12	11	26	27	30
Arable crops and setaside	—	—	1	21	9	22
Oilseeds	—	—	—	5	[illegible]	1
Linseeds	—	—	—	—	[illegible]	4
Milk outgoers schemes	3	1	8	0	—	—
Environmentally sensitive areas	—	—	—	0	0	1
Intervention (Beef)	0	0	0	3	1	1
Other market support measures	21	21	35	24	46	65
Beefmeat	3	7	13	9	3	4
Sheepmeat	16	3	7	1	0	0
Cereals	1	9	13	10	16	6
Oils and fats	0	0	0	1	2	0
Protein crops	0	1	1	0	5	2
Fruit and vegetables	0	0	0	0	0	1
Milk and milk products	0	1	1	3	20	51
Pigmeat	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sugar	0	0	0	0	0	0
Potato starch	—	—	—	—	—	1
Export refunds	4	1	13	20	45	74
MCA on Intra community trade	3	0	11	4	9	4
Totals	163	189	131	131	179	228

Source:
UK CAP scheme irregularities reported under Commission Regulations 283/72 and 595/91.

1989: Irregularity cases reported under Regulation 283/72

Sector/Commodity/Scheme	Numbers of cases	Value reported £000	Value recovered £000
Farm based schemes	135	292	284
Beef special premium	—	—	—
Suckler cow premium	114	246	241*
Sheep annual premium	18	38	35
Arable crops and set-aside	—	—	—
Oilseeds	—	—	—
Linseeds	—	—	—
Milk outgoers schemes	3	8	8
Environmentally sensitive areas	—	—	—
Intervention	0	0	0
Other market support measures	21	861	670
Beefmeat	3	434	425
Sheepmeat	16	372	217
Cereals	1	52	25
Oils and fats	0	0	0
Protein crops	0	0	0
Fruit and vegetables	0	0	0
Milk and milk products	0	0	0
Pigmeat	1	3	3
Sugar	0	0	0
Export refunds	4	11	11
MCA on intra community trade	3	4,306	6
Totals	163	5,470	971

1990: Irregularity cases reported under Regulation 283/72

Sector/Commodity/Scheme	Numbers of cases	Value reported £000	Value recovered £000
Farm based schemes	167	340	311
Beef special premium	—	—	—
Suckler cow premium	154	305	284
Sheep annual premium	12	22	14
Arable crops and set-aside	—	—	—
Oilseeds	—	—	—
Linseeds	—	—	—
Milk outgoers schemes	1	13	13
Environmentally sensitive areas	—	—	—
Intervention	0	0	0
Other market support measures	21	1,934	1,893
Beefmeat	7	19	17
Sheepmeat	3	989	987
Cereals	9	890	853
Oils and fats	0	0	0
Protein crops	1	0	0
Fruit and vegetables	0	0	0

1990: Irregularity cases reported under Regulation 283/72

Sector/Commodity/Scheme	Numbers of cases	Value reported £000	Value recovered £000
Milk and milk products	1	36	36
Pigmeat	0	0	0
Sugar	0	0	0
Export refunds	1	1	1
MCA on intra community trade	0	0	0
Totals	189	2,275	2,205

1991: Irregularity cases reported under Regulation 595/91

Sector/Commodity/Scheme	Numbers of cases	Value reported £000	Value recovered £000
Farm based schemes	72	246	208
Beef special premium	—	—	—
Suckler cow premium	52	135	125
Sheep annual premium	11	33	30
Arable crops and set-aside	1	10	10
Oilseeds	—	—	—
Linseeds	—	—	—
Milk outgoers schemes	8	68	43
Environmentally sensitive areas	—	—	—
Intervention	0	0	0
Other market support measures	35	1,898	1,497
Beefmeat	13	70	65
Sheepmeat	7	65	55
Cereals	13	1,594	1,365
Oils and fats	0	0	0
Protein crops	1	12	12
Fruit and vegetables	0	0	0
Milk and milk products	1	157	0
Pigmeat	0	0	0
Sugar	0	0	0
Export refunds	13	1,121	740
MCA on intra community trade	11	975	770
Totals	131	4,240	3,215

1992: Irregularity cases reported under Regulation 595/91

Sector/Commodity/Scheme	Numbers of cases	Value reported £000	Value recovered £000
Farm based schemes	80	444	339
Beef special premium	—	—	—
Suckler cow premium	28	148	97
Sheep annual premium	26	157	142
Arable crops and set-aside	21	115	80
Oilseeds	5	24	20
Linseeds	—	—	—
Milk outgoers schemes	0	0	0
Environmentally sensitive areas	0	0	0
Intervention	3	1,079	529
Other market support measures	24	1,845	1,297
Beefmeat	9	25	20
Sheepmeat	1	4	4
Cereals	10	1,406	1,273
Oils and fats	1	106	0
Protein crops	0	0	0
Fruit and vegetables	0	0	0
Milk and milk products	3	304	0
Pigmeat	0	0	0
Sugar	0	0	0
Export refunds	20	2,355	1,621
MCA on intra community trade	4	71	50
Totals	131	5,794	3,836

1993: Irregularity cases reported under Regulation 595/91

Sector/Commodity/Scheme	Numbers of cases	Value reported £000	Value recovered £000
Farm based schemes	78	508	366
Beef special premium	2	0	0
Suckler cow premium	33	191	162
Sheep annual premium	27	241	157
Arable crops and set-aside	9	39	18
Oilseeds	7	37	29
Linseeds	0	0	0
Milk outgoers schemes	—	—	—
Environmentally sensitive areas	0	0	0
Intervention	1	Value being assessed	—
Other market support measures	46	1,350	887
Beefmeat	3	28	17
Sheepmeat	0	0	0
Cereals	16	241	239
Oils and fats	2	19	12
Protein crops	5	35	35
Fruit and vegetables	0	0	0
Milk and milk products	20	1,027	584
Pigmeat	0	0	0
Sugar	0	0	0
Export refunds	45	944	753
MCA on intra community trade	9	111	105
Totals	179	2,913	2,111

1994: Irregularity cases reported under Regulation 595/91

Sector/Commodity/Scheme	Numbers of cases	Value reported £000	Value recovered £000
Farm based schemes	84	624	414
Beef special premium	6	18	14
Suckler cow premium	20	111	75
Sheep annual premium	30	217	142
Arable crops and set-aside	22	242	150
Oilseeds	1	3	3
Linseeds	4	26	23
Milk outgoers schemes	—	—	—
Environmentally sensitive areas	1	7	7

1994: Irregularity cases reported under Regulation 595/91

Sector/Commodity/Scheme	Numbers of cases	Value reported £000	Value recovered £000
Intervention	1	20	0
Other market support measures	65	1,500	986
Beefmeat	4	40	15
Sheepmeat	0	0	0
Cereals	6	359	51
Oils and fats	0	0	0
Protein crops	2	49	45
Fruit and vegetables	1	0	0
Milk and milk products	51	1,025	875
Pigmeat	0	0	0
Sugar	0	0	0
Potato starch	1	36	0
Export refunds	74	6.570	498
MCA on intra community trade	4	419	9
Totals	228	9,133	1,907

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many serious irregularities in the intervention regimes are currently under investigation in the United Kingdom for each agricultural commodity. [32387]

Mr. Waldegrave: The serious irregularities in the intervention regimes currently under investigation in Great Britain are shown in the table and cover all internal support schemes. The details for Northern Ireland will be sent separately to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Scheme	Number of cases
Beef intervention processing	1
Beef intervention purchases	2
Fruit and vegetable withdrawal	1
Surplus food	6
Seed production aid	1
Milk quotas	47
School milk	1
Total	59

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many investigations into intervention fraud in the United Kingdom have taken place in each of the last six years *(a)* for each agricultural commodity and *(b)* in total. [32384]

Mr. Waldegrave: The number of completed investigations into intervention fraud in GB for each support scheme is provided in the table. The details for Northern Ireland will be sent to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Scheme	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1. Beef intervention purchases	—	—	2	1	2	1	—
2. Cereals intervention purchases	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
3. Fruit and vegetables withdrawals	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
4. Surplus food	1	—	1	—	6	16	4
5. NPO butter	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
6. Butter for manufacture	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Sheep variable premium	19	4	22	—	—	—	—
Cereals corep levy	4	3	14	15	3	2	—
Beef special premium	53	15	15	12	11	—	—
Linseed	1	—	1	2	2	2	—
Peas, beans and lupins	1	2	1	—	1	—	—
Milk supplementary levy	—	1	1	2	1	9	2
School milk	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Whisky refunds	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Conc. butter for direct consumption	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Aid for dehydrated fodder	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Liquid skimmed for animal feed	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Starch	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	79	27	38	36	30	37	7

Infant Food (Oestrogen)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, pursuant to his answer of 28 June, *Official Report*, column *691*, who is conducting the two studies into oestrogens in infant diets; when they were commissioned; what reports resulted from the earlier study; if they will be made available; and when they are due to produce final reports. [32440]

Mrs. Browning: The two projects are at the Dunn clinical nutrition centre, university of Cambridge and at the Institute of Food Research, Norwich. The projects respectively started in September 1994 and April 1995 and are due to report in March 1997 and March 1998.

Results from the earlier MAFF-funded project are being reported in the scientific literature with one paper already published—*Am J Clin Nutr.* 1994; **60**; 333-340—and a second to be published later this year.

Sheep and Cattle Premiums

Sir David Steel: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will provide provisional quotas and financial assistance to farmers who have not had sheep annual premium and suckler cow premium quotas allocated, because of the judicial review, until such time as the issue is settled. [32640]

Mr. Jack: The judgment given in this case will affect the availability of quota in the national reserves for 1994 and subsequent years. Until those implications have been fully worked out, no allocations of quota can be made from those reserves.

Sir David Steel: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make it his policy not to appeal against the judicial review on sheep annual premium and suckler cow premium quotas. [32641]

Mr. Jack: The Government are currently considering the implications of the judgment given in this case and whether or not to appeal.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 6 July 1995

TREASURY

Education (Spending)

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of gross domestic product in England and Wales is spent on education. [32238]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: Gross domestic product by territory is published in table 12.1 of "Regional Trends" 1995 edition on a calendar year basis only, while general Government expenditure by territory is published in table 7.7 of the statistical supplement to the "Financial Statement an Budget Report 1995–96", Cm 2821, on a financial year basis only. In England and Wales, identifiable general Government expenditure on education in 1993–94 accounted for 6.1 per cent. of GDP for 1993.

Import/Export Controls (Breaches)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent communications or discussions he has had with the chairman of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise in regard to progress in continuing inquiries into alleged malpractice by companies or individuals in military import/export transactions. [32660]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: Investigation into alleged breaches of import or export controls is a matter for the commissioners of Customs in their role as an independent investigating and prosecuting authority of the Crown.

Neither the Chancellor nor I, the Treasury Minister with general responsibility for Customs matters, are consulted on decisions on investigation and prosecution in individual cases, but we are routinely informed of significant events in important cases. It would not be appropriate to make public details of communications on inquiries lest they prejudice current or future investigations or legal proceedings or cause unfairness to individuals.

VAT (Tour Operators)

Mr. Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy urgently to press the European Commission for changes to the regulations relating to value added tax and the tour operators margins scheme. [32879]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: I share my hon. Friend's concern and I have recently written to Commissioner Monti urging that the European Commission should give greater priority to a full review of the EC rules on the application of VAT to tour operators.

Mr. Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proposals he has to find means of compensating smaller tour operators for damage to their business as a result of the proposed implementation of the Valued Added Tax (Tour Operators) (Amendment) Order; [32881]

(2) what recent representations he has received concerning value added tax and the tour operators margins scheme; and if he will set out the action which he intends to take as a result of those representations. [32878]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: I have received many representations about the Value Added Tax (Tour Operators) (Amendment) Order 1995 which was laid before the House on 9 June, and is due to come into effect on 1 January 1996.

Many in the industry, but not all, wish to see the implementation of the change delayed.

I am aware of the concern expressed about possible distortions of competition and the effect of the order, particularly on the smaller tour operators.

Accordingly, Customs and Excise has begun a wide-ranging review of the scheme and has issued a consultation paper to trade bodies and other interested parties. It has requested replies on the particular issues arising from the 1 January 1996 change by the end of August. I shall then consider what further action, if any, is appropriate.

Mr. Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will identify those sections of the European directives which have led to the promotion of the Value Added Tax (Tour Operators) (Amendment) Order. [32882]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: The relevant EC legislation is article 26 of council directive 77/388/EEC—the Sixth VAT Directive.

Mr. Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what will be the net cost to the United Kingdom travel industry of the proposed implementation from 1 January 1996 of the Value Added Tax (Tour Operators) (Amendment) Order; if that order has yet been subject to a compliance cost assessment; and if he will make a statement. [32880]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: The increase in the total VAT due to the Exchequer as a consequence of the proposed implementation of the Value Added Tax (Tour Operators) (Amendment) Order 1995 is estimated at between £10 million and £40 million in a full year.

The order is the subject of a compliance cost assessment, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends next to meet representatives of the Association of British Travel Agents to discuss the implications for the United Kingdom travel industry which will be caused by the implementation of the Value Added Tax (Tour Operators) (Amendment) Order. [32967]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: I have no plans for a meeting at this stage. However, Customs and Excise has begun a wide-ranging review of the tour operators' margin scheme and issues arising from the proposed implementation of the Value Added Tax (Tour Operators) (Amendment) Order 1995 will be examined as a matter of priority. Customs has issued a

consultation paper and offered to meet representative bodies at any mutually convenient time.

Mr. Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement of his policy on the consistency of the proposed implementation of the Value Added Tax (Tour Operators) (Amendment) Order with help for small businesses. [32883]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: I recognise the concern over the position of smaller tour operators affected by the Value Added Tax (Tour Operators) (Amendment) Order 1995. Their position is being examined as a matter of priority as part of the wide-ranging review of the tour operators' margin scheme, and in full consultation with the industry.

Tortoise Products

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what seizures of tortoise products have been made by Customs and Excise in the last 12 months; and what advice is offered to travellers at ports of entry concerning tortoise products offered for sale in Morocco and other countries. [32747]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: HM Customs and Excise seized the following tortoise products in the year ending 31 March 1995—the latest period for which figures are available:

8 tortoise shells

72 tablets stated to contain tortoise as an ingredient

While advice to passengers is not directed specifically at the sale of tortoise products in Morocco, international travellers are made aware of the controls on protected species in general by means of posters, leaflets and the display cases which appear at many major airports.

Imported Biodiesel (Revenue)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised last year on imported biodiesel. [32716]

Mr Heathcoat-Amory: The answer is as follows:

Excise duty: None

Customs duty: Negligible

VAT: Negligible

Departmental Capital Spending

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the expected capital spending figure for his Department for 1994–95; and what is the latest budget figure. [30872]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* The provisional outturn figure for 1994–95 is £2.7 million. The budget provision for 1995–96 is £5.6 million.

Duty Receipts

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the total amount of duty on *(a)* tobacco products, *(b)* alcohol products and *(c)* all other liable products for each of the last 10 fiscal years expressed (i) at April 1995 prices and (ii) as a percentage of total Exchequer income. [32331]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* The figures are as follows:

	(a) Tobacco duty	*(b) Alcohol duties*	*(c) Other duties*[1]
(i) Duty receipts at April 1995 prices—£ million			
1985–86	6,942	6,533	17,104
1986–87	7,174	6,312	18,731
1987–88	6,914	6,300	18,865
1988–89	6,829	6,183	19,522
1989–90	6,391	5,633	18,515
1990–91	6,523	5,620	17,871
1991–92	6,949	5,596	18,720
1992–93	6,470	5,471	18,905
1993–94	6,863	5,447	20,818
1994–95	7,576	5,702	22,068
(ii) Duty receipts as proportion of central government receipts—percentage			
1985–86	3.4	3.2	8.5
1986–87	3.5	3.1	9.1
1987–88	3.2	2.9	8.7
1988–89	3.1	2.8	8.8
1989–90	2.9	2.6	8.4
1990–91	3.1	2.5	7.9
1991–92	2.9	2.5	8.4
1992–93	3.0	2.5	8.8
1993–94	3.1	2.5	9.5
1994–95	3.3	2.5	9.5

[1] Other duties include vehicle excise duty and customs and Excise duties, other than those on tobacco and alcohol.
Figures for 1994–95 are provisional.

VAT Receipts

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the total amount of VAT collected in each of the last 10 fiscal years expressed *(a)* at April 1995 prices and *(b)* as a percentage of total Exchequer income. [32329]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* The figures are as follows:

Net VAT receipts

	(a) at April 1995 prices £ million	*(b) as proportion of central government receipts percentage*
1985–86	30,092	14.9
1986–87	32,234	15.7
1987–88	34,910	16.1
1988–89	37,401	16.8
1989–90	37,421	17.0
1990–91	35,885	15.9
1991–92	39,361	17.7
1992–93	39,891	18.5
1993–94	41,024	18.6
1994–95	42,879	18.5

Figures for 1994–95 are provisional.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Electronic Mail

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chairman of the Information Committee what information he has on the savings hon. Members will make by using the Internet as opposed to mail for correspondence.

Mr. Gary Waller: Savings will accrue to the House if the Parliamentary data and video network connection to the Internet is used instead of traditional mail. However, in those cases where connection to the PDVN is via a modem, there will be an increased telephone charge.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chairman of the Information Committee what training will be provided for hon. Members and their staff on the Internet.

Mr. Waller: Demonstrations by the Computer Office to Members of both Houses, their staff and staff of the two Houses in the use of the world wide web and Internet e-mail will be provided at workshop open days. In addition, leaflets will be available on the use of the Internet, and Members and other users can ask the PDVN helpdesk for assistance.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chairman of the Information Committee if he will commission a study of the trends in hon. Member's work patterns and work load due to the advent of electronic mail; and what mechanisms and training are to be provided for assisting hon. Members and their researchers to deal with Internet e-mail.

Mr. Waller: It is too early to consider such a study, since trends of hon. Members'usage of the PDVN have not emerged. The Committee will consider in due course what mechanisms are appropriate for Internet e-mail and recommend appropriate guidance for users. As far as training is concerned, I refer the hon. Member to my preceding reply to him on this subject.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chairman of the Information Committee for what reasons hon. Members' connection to the Internet via the PDVN has been delayed; and when he expects access to be available.

Mr. Waller: The Internet connection was completed in mid-May and early testing of the facility took place during late May and through June. General access to the service has depended on standardising PDVN equipment and on the availability of a mail conversion gateway received only at the end of June. Users of the PDVN who are interested in using the Internet are being asked to allow their machines to be converted during the summer recess and should contact the PDVN helpdesk to arrange a convenient time for the upgrade. At the same time, other new services are also being made available, including the Library's parliamentary electronic document distribution system, Novell Group Wise 4.1—the updated version of Wordperfect Office—and also remote Windows access.

Parliamentary On-line Information System

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chairman of the Information Committee, if POLIS will be made available to the general public via the Internet.

Mr. Waller: No.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subsidence Adviser

Mr. Lester: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he has received an annual report from the subsidence adviser appointed under section 46 of the Coal Industry Act 1994. [33340]

Mr. Page: I have today received the subsidence adviser's first annual report. In accordance with the Coal Mining (Subsidence Adviser) Regulations 1994, copies have been laid in both Libraries of the Houses.

Official Receiver

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what will be the maximum distance bankrupts and company directors will be required to travel to attend for further interview by the official receiver, in order that the official receiver can investigate possible offences which may have been committed if the initial enquiries of the official receiver are contracted out. [32322]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: No decisions have yet been taken in relation to the residual size and location of the Insolvency Service should contracting out go ahead.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the maximum distance any of the constituents of the hon. Member for Great Grimsby who become bankrupt can expect to travel in the event of any of the functions of the official receiver being contracted out. [32584]

Mr. Evans: Accessibility will be an issue for discussion with potential bidders in the course of the negotiations on their proposals for contracting out. It is expected, however, that bankrupts will not be required to travel substantially farther than is presently necessary.

Illegal Steel Subsidies

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what evidence of illegal subsidies his Steel Subsidies Monitoring Committee has so far passed to the European Commission. [31144]

Mr. Eggar: The committee was formed in February 1995 to encourage the UK steel industry and other Government Departments to bring forward information which might point to the existence of illegal subsidies. A good deal of background information has been collected, and discussed with the Commission, including information about Italian, Spanish, German, Portuguese and Irish cases.

Amway UK Ltd.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to his answer of 26 June, *Official Report*, columns *447–48*, if hon. Members other than Ministers were present at the meetings in 1992 and 1995 between Ministers and Messrs Amway UK Ltd., or the Direct Selling Association. [32619]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 5 July 1995]:* The hon. Member for Broxtowe (Mr. Lester) was present at both meetings.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Small Claims Limit

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department (1) what consultation his Department has carried out to consider increases in the small claims limit since July 1994; and if he will make a statement. [32737]

(2) how many representations he has received since January as part of the full public consultation prior to any increase in the small claims limit; and if he will make a statement. [32738]

(3) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the interim report of the judicial review on the civil justice system conducted by Lord Woolf to comply with his Department's criteria for a departmental consultation on the level of the small claims limit; and if he will make a statement. [32840]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The small claims limit fell within the scope of the first stage of Lord Woolf's review of access to justice. During this review, Lord Woolf himself conducted an extensive consultation exercise including a programme of public seminars. A list of the individuals and organisations which contributed to the inquiry is annexed to the interim report, which was published last month. In view of that wide-ranging consultation, the Lord Chancellor does not intend to undertake further public consultation on the question whether he should implement Lord Woolf's recommendation that the limit for small claims, other than those for personal injury, should be raised to £3,000. The power to make the necessary amendments rests with the County Court Rule Committee which, as part of its consideration of the matter, will consult interested parties.

Child Abuse Cases

Mr. Alan Howarth: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what plans his Department has to ensure that the public gallery in court is cleared during the evidence of children in cases of alleged abuse. [32039]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Alan Howarth, dated 6 July 1995:

PQ 95/677: CHILD ABUSE CASES

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about the evidence of children in cases of alleged abuse.

I should let you know that, with few exceptions, proceedings in the Crown Court are held in open court. However, section 37(1) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 enables a court to direct that all persons, other than court staff, the parties and their legal representatives, be excluded from court when evidence is given by a child or young person in proceedings contrary to decency or morality. The parents or guardian of a child witness can ask their legal adviser to make such an application. It is then for the judge to decide, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

Prosecution Costs (Plymouth)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what was the cost to public funds of the recent prosecution by Plymouth trading standards department of a resident of south Brent, south Devon, for the sale of a horse. [31838]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Anthony Steen, dated 6 July 1995:

PQ 95/666: COST OF BRINGING A PROSECUTION

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the cost to public funds of bringing a prosecution.

I am sorry to have to tell you that this information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Small Claims Courts

Mr. Simon Hughes: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many landlords were taken to the small claims courts by former tenants for not repaying their deposits in each of the last 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [31919]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Simon Hughes, dated 6 July 1995:

PQ 95/668: LANDLORDS TAKEN TO COURT BY THEIR FORMER TENANTS

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the number of landlords who have been taken to court by their former tenants.

I am sorry to have to tell you that this information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

SCOTLAND

Property Maintenance

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what measures are in place which allow *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* mortgage lenders, *(c)* police forces, *(d)* council tax registration officers or *(e)* private citizens to take action to force owner-occupiers who (i) neglect owner-occupied property to the extent that it detrimentally affects the amenity and quality of life of neighbours or (ii) use residential property for trading, storage or warehousing purposes, to cease such practices and return such residential property to proper use; what plans he has to introduce additional measures; and if he will make a statement; [31387]

(2) what action can be taken against a householder of an owner-occupied property in a residential area who *(a)* neglects to properly maintain his or her property to a reasonable standard or *(b)* uses the property for trading, warehousing and storage purposes to the significant detriment of neighbours and their amenity; and if he will make a statement.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The responsibility for dealing with houses in poor condition lies with local authorities and they have wide-ranging powers. Where it is drawn to their attention that a house has been neglected they may take action under the Public Health (Scotland) Act 1897, or the Building (Scotland) Act 1959, or the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 or the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 to require that it be repaired or up-graded. These powers may also be used where neighbours are affected and there is a provision to require the maintenance of private open spaces. Planning permission for change of use is required if a residential

property is used for business purposes and that use is more than incidental to the enjoyment of the property as a dwelling house. Authorities have power to take action against those who breach planning control under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972. There are no present plans to introduce measures additional to these powers.

Any action which a mortgage lender could take over the condition or use of a property would be determined in individual circumstances by the terms of the mortgage agreement.

Higher Education

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations he has received from smaller colleges of higher education alleging difficulties in coping with Scottish Higher Education Funding Council-imposed budget reductions over the next three years; and what response he has made. [32232]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: My Department has received letters from the principals of two monotechnic higher education institutions and nine copies of a campaign letter from representatives of St. Andrew's College of Higher Education. My right hon. Friend has also received formal representations from the Committee of Scottish Higher Education Principals in relation to the 1995 public expenditure survey.

It is for the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council to determine the relative needs of institutions within the total resources available to it. The council keeps in close touch with all the institutions it funds.

My right hon. Friend will be considering carefully the council's assessment of the needs of higher education during the forthcoming public expenditure survey.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what distinction the SHEFC made in deciding budgets for higher education colleges in the next three years, between colleges which had reserves and colleges which had not been permitted to acquire reserves. [32234]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: None. The SHEFC set out its allocations of funding to higher education institutions in its circular letter No. 10/95 on 15 March 1995.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the impact of funding cuts in the next three years on the quality of provision in higher education colleges. [32235]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Our expenditure plans for higher education until the 1997–98 financial year were set out in the departmental report "Serving Scotland's Needs", Cm 2814. This included a summary of the quality assessment reports on teaching by the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council in the academic session 1993–94, and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to greater accountability of HEIs in terms of relevant, up-to-date information about quality and standards to such as employers and current and prospective students. The funding councils, including SHEFC, are working to develop indicators for performance including teaching quality.

My right hon. Friend will be considering evidence as to teaching quality and various representations he has received in the forthcoming public expenditure survey. So far almost 30 per cent. of the quality assessments of teaching published by SHEFC have been rated as excellent and only 2 per cent. as unsatisfactory.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many overseas students there were in Scottish higher education institutions in each year since 1985; and what proportion they represented of the total. [32236]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The number and percentage of full-time overseas students in higher education institutions from 1985–86 to 1993–94 is shown in the table.

	Number of full-time overseas students	*Percentage*
1985–86	6,274	8.6
1986–87	7,015	9.5
1987–88	7,087	9.4
1988–89	7,183	9.3
1989–90	8,063	9.9
1990–91	8,779	10.0
1991–92	9,610	10.0
1992–93	10,722	10.2
1993–94	11,953	10.7

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the change in the pattern of undergraduate entry to higher education *(a)* between 1980 and 1987 and *(b)* between 1987 and 1993, and what studies he has initiated into it. [32241]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The number of entrants to higher education in Scotland by mode and level of study, for the years 1980–81 to 1993–94, has been published in the Statistical Bulletin "Scottish Higher Education statistics 1993–94". Summary information is given in the table.

	Full-time			*Part-time*		
	First degree	*Other HE*	*Total under-graduates*	*First degree*	*Other HE*	*Total under-graduates*
1980–81	15,987	7,340	23,327	604	24,477	25,081
1981–82	16,249	7,309	23,558	829	19,808	20,637
1982–83	15,966	7,763	23,729	741	21,571	22,312
1983–84	16,199	8,006	24,205	922	22,395	23,317
1984–85	16,877	7,878	24,755	1,080	21,763	22,843
1985–86	17,321	7,893	25,214	1,107	24,037	25,144
1986–87	17,816	7,963	25,779	1,362	23,884	25,246
1987–88	18,312	8,425	26,737	1,424	23,793	25,217
1988–89	18,784	8,374	27,158	1,335	22,902	24,237
1989–90	21,393	9,265	30,658	1,508	23,218	24,726
1990–91	22,940	9,410	32,350	1,613	22,608	24,221

	Full-time			Part-time		
	First degree	Other HE	Total under-graduates	First degree	Other HE	Total under-graduates
1991–92	25,323	11,663	36,986	2,680	21,826	24,506
1992–93	28,680	14,048	42,728	3,789	23,284	27,073
1993–94	29,467	18,317	47,784	4,166	21,709	25,875

The centre for education sociology, University of Edinburgh, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council has recently published a paper drawing on data from the Scottish young people's survey, funded by the Scottish Office.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the amount per capita in real terms spent on higher education students in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1987 and *(c)* 1993. [32242]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information requested is not readily available for all higher education students. For those students attending universities previously funded by the Universities Funding Council I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 9 February, *Official Report*, columns *228-29*.

Education (Spending)

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of gross domestic product in Scotland is spent on education. [32237]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Identifiable Government expenditure on education in Scotland in 1993–94 was equivalent to 8.1 per cent. of gross domestic product for 1993.

The following points are relevant to the interpretation of this figure:

(i) It excludes all private sector spending on education.

(ii) It includes expenditure on recreation and leisure, sport and Gaelic broadcasting. If these items were excluded the figure would be 7.8 per cent.

(iii) It includes the cost of grants and of student loans received by all Scottish-domiciled students undertaking higher education courses. It does not include expenditure on awards or loans for students who are domiciled elsewhere in the United Kingdom but are undertaking courses in Scotland.

Scottish Record Office

Mr. Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when the accounts statement of the Scottish Record Office executive agency will be published. [33339]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Copies of the accounts statement for 1994–95 have today been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WALES

Fowl Pest

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will show, by type, the number of cases of fowl pest in each year since 1985. [32291]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: No cases of fowl pest—avian influenza or Newcastle disease—have been reported in Wales since 1985.

Tuberculosis (Cattle)

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many individual reactors to the cattle tuberculosis skin test have been slaughtered in each Welsh county in each of the last five years; and how many of those had visible lesions post-mortem. [31740]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The information is not available in the form requested. However, the numbers of reactors to the cattle tuberculosis skin test in each animal health office area in Wales which have been slaughtered in each of the last five years are given in the following table. The figures in brackets give the number of reactors slaughtered which had visible lesion at post-mortem.

Area	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Cardiff	—	20(20)	3(3)	28(22)	46(42)
Llandrindod Wells	—	—	4(4)	—	25(21)
Caernarfon	5(1)	1(1)	—	1	1
Carmarthen	18(16)	60(57)	48(37)	62(54)	188(180)

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many herds in each of the Welsh counties have tested positively for tuberculosis in each of the last five years. [31738]

Mr. Jones: The information is not available in the form requested. However, the numbers of herds in which cattle tested positive for bovine tuberculosis in each Animal Health Office area in Wales in each of the last five years were as follows:

Area	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Cardiff	—	4	3	10	18
Llandrindod Wells	—	—	—	—	6
Caernarfon	1	—	—	—	—
Carmarthen	5	14	13	17	38

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has paid out in compensation for cattle slaughtered as positive reactors or dangerous contacts in each of the Welsh counties in each of the last five years. [31735]

Mr. Jones: The information is not available on a county basis. The following table shows the amounts paid for cattle which reacted to TB tests, by divisional office area.

£

Division	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95
Caernarfon	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6,940	4,644
Carmarthen	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	191,997	323,163
Llandrindod Wells	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	142,179	87,096
Wales	86,159	74,854	102,316	341,116	414,903

[1] No separate data available. The counties covered by the Divisional Offices are:

Caernarfon—Clwyd and Gwynedd.

Carmarthen—Dyfed.

Llandrindod—Gwent, Powys, Mid-Glamorgan, South Glamorgan and West Glamorgan.

Rabies

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many cases of rabies there were in each year since 1967. [32288]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: No cases of rabies have been reported in Wales since 1967.

Epizootic Haemorrhagic Viris Disease

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many cases of epizootic haemorrhagic viris disease occurred in each year since 1985. [32282]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: No case of epizootic haemorrhagic viris disease has ever been reported in Wales.

Animal Illnesses

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many cases of African horse sickness occurred in each year since 1985; [32300]

(2) how many cases of peste des petits ruminants occurred in each year since 1985; [32285]

(3) how many cases of contagious equine metritis occurred in each year since 1985. [32303]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: No cases have occurred in Wales since 1985.

Agricultural Grants

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the percentage of each agricultural grant dealt with within the time targets set in "Commitment to Service". [32157]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: It will take some time to compile the latest data. I will write to the hon. Member when we have done so.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many claims for compensation due to late payment of agricultural grants have been lodged; how many claimants have received compensation; and what was the total cost of compensation. [32423]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: This information is not centrally collected and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy occurred in each year since 1985. [32374]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Bovine spongiform encephalopathy was first diagnosed in November 1986; there are no figures available prior to this date.

The numbers of confirmed cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Wales in each year since 1985 are as follows:

1986: 0
1987: 26
1988: 159
1989: 507
1990: 1,083
1991: 2,234
1992: 3,716
1993: 3,627
1994: 2,296
1995: 508 (to 30 June 1995)

Population

Mr. Wigley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the population of working age for Wales for the most recent date for which figures are available and in 1991, 1981 and 1971. [32441]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The resident population of Wales, of men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59 is shown in the following table.

	Residents of working age
1971	1,582,000
1981	1,662,700
1991	1,723,600
1993	1,724,000

Source:
Mid year estimates of resident population (OPCS).

Ambulance Service

Mr. Gareth Wardell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will ensure that when recording the periods of activation time for emergency ambulances those times are related to the ambulance which arrives at the relevant scene of the emergency. [32495]

Mr. Richards: The activation time for emergency ambulances is the difference between the time that an emergency call is received and the time that the nearest available ambulance is dispatched. This gives an accurate indication of the time taken within the ambulance trust to react to a call.

Farming

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the prospects for *(a)* dairy farmers (b) sheep farmers. [32937]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The latest available information on the prospects for dairy and sheep farmers is published in "Farm Incomes in the United Kingdom 1993/94",

available from the Library of the House. Data for 1994–95 will become available in the autumn.

USK River

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has received concerning the possible designation of the Usk river catchment as a special area of conservation under the terms of the European wildlife directive. [31142]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: We have received five letters and a petition on the subject.

Grant-maintained Schools

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list for the financial years 1992–94, 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 the applications for project capital funding made by grant-maintained schools, indicating the amount received for each school in each year and the purposes for which the funding was granted. [32620]

Mr. Richards: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

National Health Service

Mr. Milburn : To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the value of moneys held in trust by individual national health service trusts and health authorities. [32955]

Mr. Richards: The value of moneys held on trust by individual national health service trust and health authorities in Wales as at 31 March 1994 is as follows:

	£000
Health Authority	
Clywd District Health Authority	3,084
East Dyfed District Health Authority	3,890
Gwent District Health Authority	2,906
Gwynedd District Health Authority	2,942
Mid Glamorgan District Health Authority	1,345
Powys District Health Authority	370
South Glamorgan District Health Authority	5,866
West Glamorgan District Health Authority	3,284
Welsh Health Common Services Authority	55
NHS Trust	
Pembrokeshire NHS Trust	536
Powys Healthcare NHS Trust	142
Bridgend and District NHS Trust	4
Llanelli/Dinefwr NHS Trust	5
Carmarthen and District NHS Trust	0
Ceredigion and Mid Wales NHS Trust	2
South and East Wales Ambulance NHS Trust	4

Notes:
1. 31 March 1994 data is provisional and the latest available.
2. The figures for the value of monies held on trust is taken to be the value of net assets.

Source:
Annual Accounts of Health Authorities and NHS Trusts.

Blood Supplies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of blood supplies in each region was supplied to private hospitals in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will indicate the number of units involved. [32971]

Mr. Richards: In south Wales, the National Blood Transfusion Service (Wales) supplied 1 per cent.—1,100 units—of donated blood to private hospitals in 1994–95. The National Blood Authority is responsible for collecting and supplying blood in north Wales.

Pre-School Education

Mr. Sweeney: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement about pre-school education in Wales. [33471]

Mr. Hague: The scheme announced today by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Employment to give parents of all four-year-olds a voucher that can be exchanged for pre-school education, will apply equally in Wales.

Wales has a good record in this field with some 90 per cent. of four-year-olds already receiving some form of pre-school education. I hope the scheme will enable all four-year-olds to benefit from a pre-school place.

The voucher will be exchangeable for a part-time place in any private, voluntary or maintained institution providing nursery education, a full-time place in a reception class in a maintained school where this is available, up to a full-time place in a playgroup of a combination of these options. The value of the voucher will initially be set at £1,100.

Parents will be able to top up the value of the voucher in the private and voluntary sector if that is necessary. But provision in maintained schools will continue to be free.

Providers of places for which vouchers are exchanged will be expected to meet certain minimum quality criteria and be subject to light-touch inspection arrangements. The scheme will be funded by a mixture of recoupment of some of the money already spent on pre-school education in the maintained sector and of new money.

It is my intention that the scheme will be fully operational in Wales from April 1997. I shall be consulting interested parties about implementation of the scheme, including how to make sure we are well prepared to secure its successful introduction.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Gibraltar

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action he has taken to ensure that Crown property is not being used for tobacco smuggling in Gibraltar. [32092]

Mr. David Davis: The Gibraltar law enforcement authorities have taken a number of steps to combat smuggling generally, including increased sea patrols with the help of the Gibraltar Squadron. These law enforcement authorities would take action against smugglers if there was hard evidence that Crown property was being used as a base for smuggling.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of tobacco smuggling between Gibraltar and Spain. [32090]

Mr. Davis: We do not have exact figures for the amount of tobacco smuggled between Gibraltar and Spain. For the period 1 January 1995 to 3 July 1995 the Royal Gibraltar police seized 199 boxes of contraband tobacco.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with the Gibraltar Government regarding tobacco smuggling. [32091]

Mr. Davis: We regularly discuss smuggling with the Gibraltar Government, including tobacco smuggling. Discussions were held recently on the need to tackle the activities of fast boats.

Albania

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to open an embassy in Albania. [32670]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: We re-established diplomatic relations with Albania on 29 May 1991. HM ambassador at Rome is accredited to Albania and a chargé d'affairs is resident in Tirana. We have told the Albanian Government that we cannot consider opening a full embassy until an outstanding property claim has been settled.

Intergovernmental Conference

Ms Quin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will made a statement on the meeting of the reflections group held in Toledo on 1 and 2 July. [32886]

Mr. David Davis: The third meeting of the intergovernmental conference study group took place on 30 June and 1 July in Toledo, Spain. It was an informal meeting at which the head of the European secretariat at the Cabinet Office, Mr. Brian Bender, represented me.

The meeting discussed the EU and the citizen, and the justice and home affairs pillar of the Maastricht treaty. On the question of the EU and the citizen, Mr. Bender argued that the EU needed to be made more relevant to people's lives. This was best achieved by addressing issues of real concern to people, such as jobs, growth, less interference by the EU, and less EC fraud and waste. Further development of the concept of European citizenship which was proposed, for example, in the reports to the study group by the Commission and the European Parliament, raised difficulties. In the UK the concept of European citizenship was seen as coming into potential conflict with national identity. People were also concerned about possible future obligations of citizenship.

With regard to simplifying the treaty to make it less complex and more readable Mr. Bender applauded the objective but expressed some scepticism about whether it could be achieved without altering the substance of the treaty. A careful balance had been achieved in the Maastricht treaty which needed to be preserved.

On the justice and home affairs pillar of the treaty, Mr. Bender took issue with the suggestion in the Commission and European Parliament reports to the study group that the third pillar was not working effectively. The positive outcome of the Cannes European Council at which three conventions were agreed—Europol, customs information system and fraud—demonstrated that the third pillar could deliver results. Problems with the pillar related more to the sensitivity of the subject matter than to the institutional procedures introduced at Maastricht. It might be possible to simplify committee procedures within the pillar, but it would be a grave mistake to try to develop EC techniques such as majority voting or enhanced rights of initiative for the Commission. This might produce more decisions, but it would generate resentment and could do long-term damage to member states' political will to co-operate in these areas.

Mr. Bender argued that democratic oversight of the third pillar should rest primarily with national Parliaments.

Embassies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list each new car acquired by embassies or posts abroad in the last five years, indicating *(a)* the name of the embassy or post, *(b)* the make of the car and *(c)* the cost. [32975]

Mr. Hanley: The information, in the form requested, is not readily available, and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In the last five years the FCO, including ODA, has spent £20,985,391 on the purchase of 1,201 vehicles for 215 overseas posts. These have included more than 20 different makes and types ranging from motor-cycles, cars, minibuses, vans and trucks to meet specific local needs.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the refurbishments made to the properties of embassies or posts abroad in each of the last three years, indicating *(a)* the name of the embassy or post, *(b)* the nature of the alteration and *(c)* the cost. [32982]

Mr. Hanley: The information requested is not immediately available. I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as it has been assembled.

ENVIRONMENT

Housing

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment *(a)* how many state-funded housing association and *(b)* council-owned homes there were, and how many were unoccupied, on 1 April in (i) York, (ii) north Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England in each since 1979. [31585]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: The available information is set out in the tables. The housing association data for 1988 and earlier years are based on estimates provided by local authorities and there is known to be some under-reporting of vacant dwellings.

Local authority dwellings

	York		North Yorks		Yorkshire and Humberside		England	
	Stock	Vacants	Stock	Vacants	Stock	Vacants	Stock	Vacants
1979	11,679	80	48,119	202	584,770	8,980	4,667,100	100,500
1980	11,611	77	48,321	250	591,810	9,460	4,767,500	100,400
1981	11,572	95	47,969	254	595,980	7,890	4,912,400	97,200
1982	11,437	134	46,951	328	588,850	9,270	4,818,800	99,500
1983	11,097	150	45,422	443	568,870	12,580	4,659,800	107,100
1984	10,862	115	44,473	448	559,140	10,960	4,560,700	105,100
1985	10,684	111	43,829	465	553,720	11,780	4,510,900	109,500
1986	10,467	82	43,254	449	547,100	11,800	4,439,200	111,600
1987	10,325	64	42,579	458	541,110	11,360	4,412,600	110,200
1988	10,149	88	41,491	385	529,370	11,660	4,322,800	102,900
1989	9,786	55	40,201	412	514,310	11,600	4,177,000	100,700
1990	9,661	81	38,956	401	493,800	10,850	4,037,400	99,200
1991	9,641	82	35,230	295	479,100	8,610	3,898,900	83,100
1992	9,580	39	34,949	299	473,810	8,450	3,844,400	74,400
1993	9,484	32	34,607	286	466,220	7,980	3,759,800	70,900
1994	9,336	28	29,874	274	457,550	9,160	3,666,200	70,300

Notes:
The county, regional and England totals are grossed for missing data.
Two authorities in Yorkshire and Humberside—Ryedale (in 1990–91) and Hambleton (in 1993–94) have carried out Large Scale Voluntary transfers to housing associations.
Source:
Annual Housing Investment Programme (HIP1) returns submitted by local authorities.

Housing association dwellings

	York		North Yorks		Yorkshire and Humberside		England	
	Stock	Vacants	Stock	Vacants	Stock	Vacants	Stock	Vacants
1979	361	23	3,748	69	20,940	730	275,900	17,200
1980	421	35	3,711	74	22,420	590	294,900	17,500
1981	421	15	3,093	63	23,250	570	343,000	17,100
1982	475	5	3,189	28	23,830	590	366,600	16,100
1983	488	1	3,306	19	26,750	640	390,100	14,700
1984	567	13	2,817	37	27,490	760	413,900	15,000
1985	673	10	3,155	22	29,120	800	439,500	15,400
1986	703	5	3,413	29	30,970	700	464,500	14,900
1987	786	1	3,592	25	33,800	430	482,500	12,900
1988	810	4	4,246	65	35,200	510	498,100	12,700
1989	760	n/a	3,220	n/a	36,650	n/a	519,600	21,700
1990	851	n/a	3,928	n/a	40,910	n/a	568,300	19,700
1991	874	10	7,206	117	43,570	720	608,300	16,400
1992	947	16	7,463	93	45,910	800	646,100	16,200
1993	1,036	59	8,001	203	49,400	1,940	714,300	27,600
1994	1,113	18	12,833	145	56,800	1,010	778,800	20,700

Notes:
The 1979 to 1988 county, regional and England totals are grossed for missing data but for 1989 to 1994 only the England figures are grossed for missing values.
Two authorities in Yorkshire and Humberside—Ryedale (in 1990–91) and Hambelton (in 1993–94) have carried out Large Scale Voluntary Transfers to housing associations.
The 1993 vacants figures include a number of dwellings purchased under the Housing Market Package initiative (a total of 10,500 in England).
Sources:
1979 to 1988—Annual Housing Investment Programme (HIP1) returns submitted by local authorities.
1989 to 1984—Annual HAR 10/1 returns which housing associations submit to the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the Department's estimate of the number of local authority houses that will be built in the current financial year. [32821]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: The Department does not prepare forecasts of new house building.

Social Housing

Mr. Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) how many asylum seekers were allocated social housing in each of the last 10 years as a percentage of the total number of allocations made by each local authority in England, Scotland and Wales; and if he will make a statement; [31920]

(2) how many *(a)* women under 18 years and *(b)* men under 18 years have been waiting (i) over six months, (ii) over 2 months and (iii) over 18 months for social housing in each local authority in England, Scotland and Wales; and if he will make a statement; [31921]

(3) how many individuals, classified as vulnerable under part III of the Housing Act 1985, were allocated social housing in each of the last five years as a percentage of the total number of allocations made by

each local authority in England, Scotland and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [31922]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: The information requested is not available centrally.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many starts were made in social housing for rent in each Hampshire district in each of the past five years; and how many starts he estimates will be made in each district in each of the next two years. [31844]

Mr. Jones: The publication "Local Housing Statistics" shows estimates of housebuilding starts by housing associations and by local authorities for each local authority area Hampshire. Figures are shown in table 1 of each of the following issues:

Year	*Issue number*
1990	103
1991	105
1992	109
1993	110
1994 (first three quarters only)	112

Copies of these publications are in the Library.

The Department does not prepare forecasts of new house building starts.

Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) which members of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment receive a grant from *(a)* the National Environment Research Council and *(b)* a private company; and in the latter case if he will list the companies and the size of grants; [32499]

(2) if he will list the members of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment with the name of their present employer; and whether they receive any form of research grant from any Department. [32500]

Sir Paul Beresford: The current membership of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment comprises:

Professor J. Beringer: *University of Bristol*
Professor E. M. Cooke: *Public Health Laboratory Service*
Dr. P. Dale: *Institute of Plant Science Research*
Dr. A. Garland: *Glaxo-Wellcome plc*
Dr. C. Gliddon: *University of Wales*
Dr. A. Gray: *Institute of Terrestrial Ecology*
Ms J. Hill: *Green Alliance*
Dr. J. Kinderlerer: *University of Sheffield*
Mr. J. McLeod: *National Institute of Agricultural Botany*
Professor D. Onions: *University of Glasgow Veterinary School*
Professor N. Poole: *Zeneca Ltd.*
Dr. D. Robinson: *Scottish Crop Research Institute*

Members are not required to provide comprehensive information on sources of funds for research, and such information is not therefore held by my Department. However, the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, the Scottish Crop Research Institute, and the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology all currently hold research contracts from my Department. Members are required to disclose any personal or professional interest, or any interest of the organisation which employs them before review of specific applications by the committee.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if members of the public are allowed to attend committee meetings of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment. [32502]

Sir Paul Beresford: Members of the public are not allowed to attend meetings of the committee. They may make written submissions to the committee.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will place the annual reports of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment for the last five years in the Library. [32496]

Sir Paul Beresford: The first annual report of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment was published last year and it was placed in the Library.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what investigations has taken place on the decision by the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment to allow the testing of genetically modified scorpion venom virus in open fields. [32497]

Sir Paul Beresford: The confined release of a genetically modified scorpion venom virus was the subject of a consent issued by the Secretary of State to the Institute of Virology and Environmental Microbiology in April 1994, following advice received from the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment.

Following the receipt of communications from some members of the public, the proposed release was reviewed for a second time by the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, and its advice was that the consent should be maintained.

During the course of the release, the site was visited by specialist inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive, whose report confirmed that the release was being carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of the issued consent. A satisfactory report of the release has been submitted by IVEM to the Secretary of State.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many forms of genetically modified viruses have been permitted by the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment. [32501]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment has no authority to permit releases; consents for releases are given by the Secretary of State for the Environment, acting jointly with, as appropriate, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Secretary of State for Scotland, or the Secretary of State for Wales.

The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment has to date given advice to the Secretary of State for consents to release two forms of virus, one, a baculovirus, the other a bacteriophage.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list all the applications for the release of genetically modified organisms which have

been refused by the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment. [32498]

Sir Paul Beresford: The committee has no powers to approve applications. Since the committee was placed on a statutory basis in 1993, it has not advised that any applications be refused. It has delayed its advice on specific applications pending the provision of additional information, and it has advised on precautions to be taken in making specific releases.

Planning Applications

Mr. John Townend: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if registered restricted covenants that seek to preserve the character of a development are considered as other material considerations when a planning application is being considered. [32421]

Sir Paul Beresford: While restrictive covenants and planning controls impinge upon each other to some extent, they constitute different systems of control and each has an independent existence. It is, however, ultimately for the courts to decide what is a material consideration.

Mr. Townend: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what are the implications for planning applications for the absence of the term, building line. [32422]

Sir Paul Beresford: It is for a local planning authority to determine in the first instance whether a planning application adequately describes a proposed development. The validity of applications is ultimately a matter for the courts.

Oil and Gas Platforms (Dumping)

Mr. Macdonald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if the Government will support the Oslo Commission decision of 29 June to ban the dumping at sea of North sea oil and gas platforms. [32503]

Sir Paul Beresford: No decision on this subject could be reached by the Oslo Commission on 29 June for procedural reasons, but a majority of the contracting parties indicated that they would vote in an intersessional written procedure for a decision for a moratorium on deep sea disposal pending the development of a ban as soon as possible. The UK and Norway—the only two countries which have deep-sea installations—indicated that they will not vote for that decision. Under the convention, they will thus not be bound by it. Any ban will be mere posturing by countries without such installations. These countries less than three years ago signed the OSPAR convention which provides for case-by-case assessment to determine the best way for the environment as a whole of decommissioning each major offshore installation—this remains the most effective way of dealing with this difficult problem.

Planning Blight

Mr. Rowe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what representations he has received on the subject of compensation for planning blight; and if he will make a statement. [31159]

Sir Paul Beresford: My Department regularly receives inquiries and comments about compulsory purchase and the compensation that may be payable.

During an Adjournment debate on 5 April, *Official Report*, columns 1693-1700. I mentioned that certain aspects of the current arrangements require a careful and objective review. We therefore propose to commission research to look into a wide range of issues, which will include the effects of blight and the attitudes and expectations of those affected by compulsory purchase.

Marine Ecosystems (North Sea)

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what action is being taken to stop the destruction of marine ecosystems in the North sea. [31163]

Sir Paul Beresford: A range of national, European Union and international action is being taken to protect North sea ecosystems. The fourth North sea conference in June concluded that, within territorial waters, implementation of the EC habitats and birds directives was a priority. The conference asked the Oslo and Paris Commissions to consider what action is needed in respect of those waters outside territorial limits.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Dicks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the levels of revenue reserves held by local authorities. [33468]

Mr. Curry: My Department has recently conducted a survey of the general fund revenue reserves held by local authorities during 1994–95. The results show that authorities held about £5.7 billion in revenue reserves at 1 April 1994, of which about £2.3 billion was unallocated, the remainder being earmarked for specific purposes or held on behalf of schools under local management of schools schemes.

Authorities expect their reserves to decrease by 1 April 1995 to about £4.8 billion, of which £0.6 billion would be held on behalf of schools, £2.3 billion in other earmarked reserves, and £1.9 billion in working balances and other unallocated reserves. This compares with their budgeted revenue expenditure of £45.6 billion for 1995–96.

Assuming that authorities appropriate from reserves the amounts which they have taken into account in their 1995–96 budgets, their reserves would total £3.9 billion on 31 March 1996, of which we estimate that between £1.25 billion and £1.5 billion would be unallocated.

I have today placed in the Library of the House a copy of the available figures for the reserves which each authority expects to hold at 1 April 1995.

Mortgage Indemnities

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment pursuant to his answer of 26 June, *Official Report*, column *541*, if he will list by local authority in England and Wales *(a)* the total value of indemnities given on mortgages under section 442 of the Housing Act 1985 and *(b)* the total value of indemnities given on loans for all purposes. [32340]

Mr. Robert B. Jones *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* The available information on the total value of

indemnities given on mortgages under section 442 of the Housing Act 1985 between April 1986 and 31 March 1995 is given in the table. This is based on data as reported by local authorities during the course of the year and does not incorporate any estimation for non-response.

Information on the value of indemnities given on other types of loan is not collected.

Information in respect of Welsh local authorities is the responsibility of my hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales.

Mortgage indemnity agreements entered into by local authorities
England: April 1986–March 1995

	Total value £000
Basildon	12
Bolton	2,438
Broadland	21
Bromsgrove	18
Broxbourne	6,747
Calderdale	1,175
Cherwell	751
Cleethorpes	18
Crawley	1,715
Crewe and Nantwich	3
Derby	275
Dudley	1,050
Easington	65
Ellesmere Port	100
Elmsbridge	684
Guildford	780
Hammersmith	60
Hertsmere	1,098
Kings Lynn	104
Kirklees	10
Knowsley	1,648
Langbaurgh	594
Leicester	143
Malvern Hills	6
Manchester	13
Middlesborough	213
North Warwickshire	220
Oldham	22
Preston	970
Reading	263
Reigate and Banstead	50
Rossendale	412
Rushcliffe	8,286
Salisbury	322
South Hams	581
South Kesteven	534
South Wight	693
Spelthorne	2,436
St. Edmundsbury	482
Staffordshire Moorlands	94
Stockton on Tees	514
Tameside	164
Tendring	1,064
The Wrekin	46
Torridge	54
Wandsworth	7,820
Wealden	174
West Devon	871
Westminster	1,616
Windsor and Maidenhead	576
Woking	1,294
Woodspring	13
England total	49,312

Source:
P1B Housing returns.

Archway Tower

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will call for a report from the Property Services Agency on the future use and current condition of Archway tower, Junction road, London N19, formerly leased to the Department of Social Security.

Sir Paul Beresford *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* Property Holdings has responsibility for Archway tower, which is leased to my Department, and is in need of some modernisation and refurbishment.

It was formerly occupied by the Benefits Agency as a public caller office. It has recently moved to premises more suitable for its needs. While the building has been considered by other Departments, so far no interest has been shown and it has therefore been placed in the hands of letting agents with the intention that the lease is, if possible, totally disposed of.

Homeless Households

Mr. Barnes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what proportion of households accepted as homeless by local authorities under part 3 of the Housing Act 1985 was recorded as ethnic minority households in the last year for which figures are available. [30547]

Mr. Robert B. Jones *[holding answer 26 June 1995]:* The statistical return—P1E—on which local authorities are asked to provide information on their activities under the homelessness provisions of the Housing Act 1985 has, since the second quarter of 1991, asked about the ethnic origin of households accepted for permanent re-housing. Complete data are not provided by a sizeable number of authorities and, because of the considerable variations in the ethnic mix between authorities, national estimates are not produced on the data currently submitted.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) how many schemes and to what value have been approved in 1994–95 under the private finance initiative; what are the estimates for the current financial year; how many schemes are currently being considered and at what value; for how long have they been considered and how many have been in the assessment process for over *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months; and what was the average length of time taken to assess schemes so far approved; [30844]

(2) how many schemes and by how much Government spending has changed in 1994–95 as a result of the private finance initiative; what is the estimated effect in 1995–96; how many jobs are to be created by schemes approved to date under the initiative and how many have been lost as a consequence in the public sector; and what is the forecast of transfer of employment from public to private sector over the last five years because of the initiative.

Sir Paul Beresford *[pursuant to his reply, 28 June 1995, c.655]:* I indicated that the Department of the Environment and its sponsored bodies attracted around £4 million in private investment. This should have stated that £4 billion had been attached in support of programmes in 1994–95.

HEALTH

Glaucoma

Mr. Jon Owen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what is the average cost to her Department for providing glaucoma sufferers with a lifetime of prescriptions; [31403]

(2) what is the total annual cost to his Department for providing prescriptions to glaucoma sufferers; and how much is claimed back each year through prescription charges; [31401]

(3) what is the average cost to his Department for prescriptions to glaucoma sufferers per annum, per patient; and what is the same cost to the patient in prescription charges. [31400]

Mr. Malone: The available information is shown in the table:

Drugs used for the treatment of glaucoma, 1994 (provisional) England

	Amount
Net ingredient cost	£25.4 million
Prescription items	3.4 million
Average net ingredient cost per prescription item	£7.50

1. Drugs as defined by the British National Formulary section 11.6 (Treatment of glaucoma). Some of these drugs may have been prescribed for conditions other than glaucoma.
2. The information was obtained from the prescription cost analysis system which is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in England by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered. It excludes items dispensed by hospital pharmacies.
3. The net ingredient cost refers to the cost of the drug before discounts and does not include any dispensing costs or fees.
4. Prescription data does not identify the disease or condition for which the item has been prescribed.

Autoimmune Rheumatic Disease

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department carried out into a national repository of multicase families with autoimmune rheumatic disease; what have been the findings; and if he will make a statement. [30001]

Mr. Malone: The main agency through which the Government support biomedical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council, which receives its grant in aid from the office of my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. In 1993–94 the MRC spent £2.9 million on research into the autoimmune system.

No research is being carried out by the Department of Health into autoimmune rheumatic disease.

Committees

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which members of *(a)* the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, *(b)* the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food Policy and *(c)* the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food receive grants from private companies. [32418]

Mr. Sackville: Relevant grants for research from private companies are declared by members in the appropriate register of commercial interests, copies of which will be placed in the Library.

Health Authority Boundaries

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the new health authority boundaries to be published; and if he will make a statement; [32412]

(2) what guidance he has offered to regional health authorities concerning consultation with the public about new health authority boundaries; [32410]

(3) what opportunity there is for hon. Members to make representations concerning proposals for the new health authority boundaries; [32409]

(4) if he will place in the Library details of the proposed new health authority boundaries; [32413]

(5) what requirements he has placed on regional health authorities to consult with the public prior to finalising the new health authority boundaries. [32411]

Mr. Malone: Public consultation on the boundaries of the new health authorities will be carried out by regional offices of the national health service executive. A copy of the guidance "Consultation On The Boundaries Of The New Health Authorities" is available in the Library.

Each regional office will issue a consultation document setting out proposals for the new health authority boundaries within its area. Consultation will start on 17 July and will last three months. Comments should be made to the appropriate regional office by 17 October.

Decisions on the boundaries of the new health authorities will be made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health, following the consultation period, taking into account the views expressed.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his Department, their purpose and their cost. [32475]

Mr. Sackville: Information for the years 1979–80 to 1984–85 is not available. Advertising expenditure for the financial years 1985–86 to 1994–95 is as follows:

	£ million
1985–86	3.106
1986–87	7.969
1987–88	6.494
1988–89	3.724
1989–90	7.280
1990–91	4.797
1991–92	8.058
1992–93	5.053
1993–94	5.809
1994–95 (estimated)	4.305

Advertising campaigns have included AIDS, drug and solvent misuse, organ donation, blood donor recruitment, nurse recruitment, keep warm keep well, food hygiene, cot deaths, health of the nation, and the Children Act.

The figures include the 1.75 per cent. commission charged by the Central Office of Information for services associated with cental purchasing.

Details of specific advertising campaigns, their purpose and their cost could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Infertility Treatment

Mr. Jon Owen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health authorities fund the intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection infertility treatment either within their own hospitals or as extra-contractual referrals. [32505]

Mr. Sackville: The information is not available centrally.

Young Offenders

Mr. Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what number and percentage of young offenders aged *(a)* under 16 years, *(b)* 16 years and *(c)* 17 years were subject to supervision orders supervised (i) by social service departments and (ii) by the probation service. [32637]

Mr. Bowis: Information available centrally on supervision by social services departments only distinguishes children aged 14 and over from other children. These figures are in "Supervision Orders, year ending 31 March 1994, England" A/F 94/16, copies of which are available in the Library.

Supervision by the probation service is the responsibility of my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Children's Homes

Mr. Hill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the report of the social services inspectorate study of small children's homes. [32728]

Ms Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the study by the social services inspectorate into unregistered children's homes was completed; and if he will place a copy of the study in the Library. [32544]

Mr. Bowis: The report is not yet completed.

Hospital Maintenance

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the latest figures for backlog of hospital maintenance by region. [32812]

Mr. Sackville: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, East (Mr. Brown) on 8 December 1994, columns *359–60* for the latest information available.

Supra Regional Services

Mr. Trend: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make available a summary of the funding and levels of activity agreed for 1995–96 with centres designated to provide supra regional services. [33469]

Mr. Sackville: A summary of this information has been placed in the Library as an addendum to the document "Supra regional services 1995–96" announcement by the Secretary of State for Health.

Co-trimoxazole

Mr. Trend: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the Medicines Control Agency has now considered the place of co-trimoxazole in current clinical practice. [33470]

Mr. Sackville: The Medicines Control Agency has considered this matter and consulted the Committee on Safety of Medicines. The Government propose fully to implement their advice, which is that the indications for co-trimoxazole should be restricted to the following:

> Treatment and prophylaxis (primary and secondary) of pneumocystis carini pneumonitis in adults and children.
>
> Treatment and prophylaxis of toxoplasmosis, treatment of nocardia.
>
> Treatment of acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis and urinary tract infections, where there is bacterial evidence of sensitivity to co-trimoxazole and good reason to prefer this combination to a single antibiotic.
>
> Treatment of acute otitis media in children, where there is good reason to prefer co-trimoxazole to a single antibiotic.

The CSM also advised that there are no new safety issues with co-trimoxazole but proposed clarification of the safety information in data sheets and that patient information leaflets should be introduced as soon as possible. An article in "Current Problems in Pharmacovigilance" will be published shortly providing these findings to health professionals. A copy of the bulletin will be placed in the Library.

Anaphylaxis

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths in England and Wales in 1994 are known to have been due to anaphylaxis. [31143]

Mr. Sackville: The number of deaths certified as due to anaphylactic shock—international classification of diseases code 995.0—in England and Wales for 1992, the latest year for which figures are available, was nine.

NHS Trusts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where registers of trust board members' interests are held. [32986]

Mr. Malone: Each national health service trust must hold and maintain a register of board members' interests and that register must be available to the public on request, in accordance with the "Codes of Conduct and Accountability for NHS Boards", copies of which are available in the Library.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures exist to register conflicts of interest declared by trust board and health authority members; and how many such matters have been notified to his Department or the NHS executive. [32976]

Mr. Malone: The codes of conduct and accountability require members of national health service boards to declare any private interests that are potentially material and relevant to NHS business and to have those interests recorded in board minutes and entered into a register. Guidance from the NHS executive recommends that the register should be kept up to date by means of an annual review. There is no requirement on members of NHS authorities and trusts to make any additional declaration of interests to the NHS executive or to the wider Department of Health.

NHS Appointees (Payments)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 16 February, to the hon. Member for Don Valley (Mr. Redmond), *Official Report*, column *808* (1) if he will *(a)* provide similar figures on NHS appointees' payments for previous years and *(b)* indicate when 1994–95 figures will be available; [32979]

(2) if he will disaggregate the figures on NHS appointees' payments to show the value of *(a)* bonus payments, *(b)* benefits in kind and *(c)* taxable expenses allowances. [32980]

Mr. Malone: Information on the remuneration of members of the boards of individual regional and district health authorities and national health service trusts in 1994–95 is expected to be available centrally in November this year. Information is not available centrally for previous years or disaggregated in the form requested.

NHS Estates

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will itemise the assets and values now diverted from individual trusts to NHS Estates, by region; [32987]

(2) what plans NHS Estates has to dispose of assets divested to it by NHS trusts. [32988]

Mr. Sackville: No assets have been transferred, or are proposed to be transferred from trusts, to NHS Estates, so there are no plans by NHS Estates for any disposals.

Redundancy Packages

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many redundancy packages are at present being offered by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* by the NHS executive. [32914]

Mr. Sackville: There are currently no redundancy schemes on offer to staff. An earlier voluntary scheme closed on 31 January 1995.

Hospital Managers

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the average number of hours worked by hospital managers in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [32918]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

NHS Trust Managers

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the number of managers within NHS trusts as recommended by the Audit Commission. [32922]

Mr. Malone: The Audit Commission has made no such recommendation.

Clinical Negligence Claims

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is held by his Department or the NHS executive on the medical procedures that are most prone to clinical negligence claims. [32989]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list by trust the *(a)* number, *(b)* value and *(c)* medical specialty against which clinical negligence claims were settled in each of the last years for which figures are available. [32977]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally in the form requested.

Intensive Care Beds

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations he has had with the relevant *(a)* hospital trusts, *(b)* district and *(c)* regional health authorities in relation to the failure to locate appropriate open heart surgery and intensive care bed facilities any closer than the University hospital of Wales in Cardiff, in respect of Mr. Dennis, a patient at Wexham Park hospital, Slough, Buckinghamshire; and if he will make a statement. [32841]

Mr. Sackville: None. It is the responsibility of health authorities to work with their local hospitals, to ensure the adequate intensive care provision to meet local needs.

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received in relation to the provision of a hospital-to-hospital bed bureau service to reduce transfer times in urgent and intensive care cases. [32843]

Mr. Sackville: There have been a number of representations about the possible use of information technology for the establishment of a database showing available intensive care beds.

Blood Bags

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the estimated saving from changing supplies of storage bags for blood; what has been the estimated total cost of replacing the blood stock lost through defective bags; and what action is being taken with regard to those responsible for the decision. [32845]

Mr. Sackville: Negotiation of a national contract to replace 14 regional contracts for blood bags led to lower prices from the previous monopoly supplier and introduction of an alternative source of supply with no

reduction in product specification. Estimated savings are £700,000 for 1994–95.

The National Blood Authority is urgently investigating the problems that have recently been identified with Tuta bags.

Hospital Closures

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 25 May, *Official Report*, column *765*, what information on closures of hospitals is collected by his Department and in what form [32916]

Mr. Sackville: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave her on 6 February, *Official Report*, columns *35–36*.

Dr. Johnston

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the approximate number of communications between the NHS management executive and Camden and Islington health authority over the last six years in relation to Dr. Johnston's legal action; and if he will make available copies of these communications to hon. Members. [32920]

Mr. Malone: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave her on 24 May, *Official Report*, column *602*.

Blood Supplies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of blood supplies in each region was supplied to private hospitals in the last year for which figures are available, indicating the number of units involved. [32984]

Mr. Sackville: This information is not available centrally. It has always been the policy of the national health service to meet non-NHS reasonable requests for blood on the basis of availability and clinical need.

Departmental Staff

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff members of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS executive have expressed an interest in redundancy. [32915]

Mr. Sackville: There were 1,560 applications for voluntary early retirement/severance from staff of the Department and its agencies. Some 231 applications were from national health services executive staff.

Bull Bars

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to investigate whether bull bars have caused preventable death; and what plans he has to advise the Department of Transport in respect of controls on these bars. [32919]

Mr. Sackville: By the end of the year, the Department of Transport hopes to be able to produce an interim report on accidents involving vehicles fitted with bull bars. It is currently analysing information collected in 1994 by 30 police forces in England, Scotland and Wales. The Department of Health is liaising closely with the Department of Transport, which will be considering what action might be taken to control the use of bull bars.

Bed Availability

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set up an inquiry into the best means of providing information on bed availability to hospitals urgently requiring specialised intensive care facilities at other hospitals. [32842]

Mr. Sackville: It is for health authorities and providers to ensure that hospitals have effective bed management procedures for intensive care and that specialist centres develop a co-ordinated approach to bed usage. There are currently several initiatives in hand to facilitate an immediate response to specialised intensive care units seeking to transfer a patient in the event of their having no spare capacity.

Resource Allocation

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the origin, statistical basis and purpose of the market forces factor in the national health service executive's new formula for resource allocation; and if he will make a statement. [32844]

Mr. Sackville: To be equitable, the allocations system has to take account of the fact that the cost of providing services is higher in London and the south-east. A market forces factor—MFF—was first introduced on the recommendation of the advisory group on resource allocation in 1980 and later reviewed in 1988.

The MFF was reviewed in 1993 as part of the review of weighted capitation. The review was able to take account of more detailed data on staff costs from the new earnings survey as well as a detailed model of how care is purchased across the country.

A more detailed explanation is in the booklet "HCHS Revenue Resource Allocation—Weighted Capitation formula" and a more technical paper "Market Forces Factor—Staff Pay Adjustment" copies of which are available in the Library.

NHS Trust Funds

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the value of moneys held in trust by individual NHS trusts and health authorities. [32974]

Mr. Sackville: This information will be placed in the Library.

Hospitals (Energy Consumption Returns)

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the number of hospitals in the energy consumption returns in each year since 1979. [32921]

Mr. Sackville: Information on the number of hospitals obtained from energy consumption returns was not collected before 1993–94. I refer the right hon. Member to the replies my hon. Friend the Minister for Health gave her on 16 May, *Official Report*, column *173–76* and on 24 May, *Official Report*, column *597* for the available information.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Patrick Kane

Mr. Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will refer to his advisers the article, a copy of which has been sent to him, concerning Patrick Kane; and if he will arrange for his case to be reviewed by the Life Sentence Review Board. [30211]

Sir John Wheeler: I can confirm that, following an internal review of this case, Patrick Kane has been informed that his case will be referred to the Life Sentence Review Board earlier than the normal 10-year stage of imprisonment. The case will be considered by the Northern Ireland Life Sentence Review Board in early 1997.

Northern Ireland Civil Service Commission

Rev. Martin Smyth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to ensure that the proportion of senior open competition appointments by the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commission who are civil servants approximates to the proportion appointed by the Civil Service Commission in England. [32164]

Sir John Wheeler: The Northern Ireland Civil Service Commission recruits solely on the basis of merit as determined in fair and open competition and all eligible candidates, either from within the civil service or from outside, are assessed against common job-related requirements.

Rev. Martin Smyth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will set up an independent inquiry into the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commission's conduct of open competitions for senior appointments with particular reference to *(a)* the reasons for the predominance of civil service appointees, *(b)* the limited professional experience required of appointments to the post of chief engineer and scientist and *(c)* the role of the retiring chief executive of the Training and Employment Agency in the appointment of his successor. [32198]

Sir John Wheeler: The Northern Ireland Civil Service Commission has a well established record of fair and impartial recruitment. I see no need for an independent inquiry into the conduct of open competitions for senior appointments bearing in mind that:

(a) appointments are made solely on the basis of merit; and in 1994 some 50 per cent. of appointees at grade 6 and above were from outside the civil service;

(b) the requirements for the post of chief engineer and scientist were related to the duties of that post and to those of the chief executive of the industrial research and technology unit; the dual role of the postholder called for a balance between technical competence and management ability;

(c) the selection panel for the post of deputy chief executive/chief executive designate of the Training and Employment Agency was properly constituted in accordance with rules drawn up by the Civil Service Commissioners.

Rev. Martin Smyth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he intends to appoint an independent person to take charge of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commission. [32191]

Sir John Wheeler: I have recently reviewed the composition of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Commissioners and I shall shortly be recommending to Her Majesty the appointment of a further independent commissioner. This will bring the balance of commissioners to three non-civil servants and three civil servants. I am satisfied that the office of chairman of commissioners should be held by the permanent secretary of the Department of Finance and Personnel, who is responsible, by virtue of the Civil Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, for the general management and control of the Northern Ireland civil service.

School Building

Mr. William Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were built in the years (i) 1960 to 1964, (ii) 1965 to 1969, (iii) 1970 to 1974, (iv) 1975 to 1979, (v) 1980 to 1984, (vi) 1985 to 1989 and (vii) 1990 to 1994; and what was the design life of schools in each period. [32438]

Mr. Ancram: The number of new schools built in each of the periods is set out in the table. Information about the design life of schools built in each period is not available.

Period	*Primary schools*	*Secondary schools*
1960–64	100	39
1965–69	147	21
1970–74	110	19
1975–79	65	10
1980–84	25	1
1985–89	17	1
1990–94	26	5

Railways

Mr. Mallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what amount of INTERREG grant Northern Ireland Railways will expect to receive in relation to the development of *(a)* Portadown and *(b)* Lisburn railway stations. [32404]

Mr. Moss: Northern Ireland Railways has not applied for grant from the INTERREG II programme for the development of Portadown and Lisburn railway stations.

Mr. Mallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what amount of financial contribution Northern Ireland Railways expects to receive from Craigavon district council in relation to the development of Portadown railway station. [32405]

Mr. Moss: There are no plans for any development at Portadown railway station in the immediate future. Therefore the question of funding from Craigavon district council does not arise.

Mr. Mallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what amount of financial contribution Northern Ireland Railways expects to receive from Lisburn district council in relation to the development of Lisburn railway station. [32406]

Mr. Moss: There will be no financial contribution from Lisburn borough council. The expenditure incurred at Lisburn has resulted from the need to carry out work to the structure of the building, which had become a safety

risk. The full cost of the work is being met by the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company.

Blood Supplies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of blood supplies in each region was supplied to private hospitals in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will indicate the number of units involved. [32970]

Mr. Moss: During the financial year 1994–95, a total of 630 units of ordinary blood, red cells, were supplied to the Ulster independent clinic in Belfast and to the North/West independent clinic in county Londonderry. This represents 1 per cent. of the total blood supplies.

In addition, 18 units of platelets—less than 0.1 per cent. of the total—and 12 units of fresh frozen plasma—0.2 per cent. of the total—were supplied to the Ulster independent clinic.

Trust Funds (Health)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the value of moneys held in trust by individual NHS trusts and health authorities. [32972]

Mr. Moss: The information in respect of the health and social services boards at 31 March 1994 was as follows:

	Northern £	*Southern* £	*Eastern* £	*Western* £	*Total* £
Capital in Perpetuity Accounts	25,308	8,359	474,689	85,731	594,087
Other Fund Accounts	2,375,436	649,850	13,362,927	734,901	17,123,114
Total	2,400,744	658,209	13,837,616	820,632	17,717,201

On 1 April 1993 the first six HSS trusts became operational in Northern Ireland. However, at 31 March 1994 the relevant funds held in trust had not transferred to the HSS trusts. Accordingly in 1993–94 the trust funds remained with the relevant Health and Social Services Board for accounting purposes, although the relevant HSS trust did have access to their proper funds.

Dr. Yin Yin Teoh

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the recommendations arising from the investigation by the trust of the circumstances surrounding the Dr. Yin Yin Teoh case which he intends to implement in other hospitals. [32917]

Mr. Moss: The Department of Health and Social Services is presently considering the relevance to other hospitals in Northern Ireland of the recommendations arising from the investigation by the Royal Group of Hospitals HSS trust into the case involving Dr. Yin Yin Teoh. It is likely that these will be made available to other hospitals in the near future.

General Practitioners Fundholders

Mr. Hawkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what level of savings was achieved by general practitioner fundholders in Northern Ireland during 1993–94, and if he will make a statement. [33503]

Mr. Moss: In 1993–94, the first year of the fundholding scheme in Northern Ireland, savings retained by fundholding GPs amount to £2,456,539, representing some 8 per cent. of budgets set. GPs are obliged by law to spend savings in ways which will benefit their patients. In the main, practices are, to date, using their savings on initiatives such as reducing waiting lists, funding additional services, purchasing clinical equipment and, in one case, redeveloping a health centre.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Mr. Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what have been *(a)* the administration costs, *(b)* the legal costs and *(c)* other costs incurred as a result of the introduction of the 1994 tariff for criminal injuries compensation, the ensuing court case, and the subsequent abandonment of the tariff scheme. [32635]

Mr. Maclean: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him in the *Official Report* on 17 May, column *288*.

Foundation for Business Responsibilities

Mr. Robert Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will make a statement on the powers of the Charity Commissioners to force charities to provide lists of their donors; what penalties can be imposed to enforce these powers; and if these powers were used during the commissioner's investigation into the Foundation for Business Responsibilities; [32055]

(2) if he will make a statement on the legal powers of the Charity Commission to compel individuals to come for interview to aid its inquiries; what penalties can be imposed to enforce these powers; and if such powers or penalties were used in the commission's investigation into the Foundation for Business Responsibilities. [32054]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The Charity Commission has power under the Charities Act 1993 to require a person to supply documents, or copies of documents, relevant to the discharge of its functions. A person who is found guilty of wilfully suppressing any document which he is required to produce to the commission may be liable to a fine and/or a term of imprisonment.

Charities are not, however, required to retain lists of individual donors. The commission does not use its formal powers to require lists of donors.

The commission may compel individuals to come for interview during an investigation, using its powers under section 8 and 9 of the Charities Act 1993, and it may enforce those powers under sections 87, 88 or 90(2) of that Act. I understand that it was not necessary to use those powers during the commission's inquiry into the Foundation for Business Responsibilities.

Mr. Robert Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 29 June, *Official Report*, column *766*, if the Charity Commission investigators were informed of other break-ins at the Foundation for Business Responsibilities' former offices; and if they sought or received confirmatory evidence of these further break-ins. [32743]

Mr. Baker: Charity Commission investigators were not informed of any other break-ins at the Foundation for Business Responsibilities' former offices.

Stalking

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he has made of the available data on stalking in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement; [32061]

(2) what action he proposes to deter stalkers and to protect their victims; [32063]

(3) what representations he has received from the national anti-stalking and harassment campaign and support association; what response he has made; and if he will make a statement; [32064]

(4) if he will introduce legislation to make stalking a criminal offence. [32060]

Mr. Maclean: It is a matter of great concern when an individual persistently and obsessively pursues another, to the point of causing distress and anxiety to the unwilling recipient of his attentions.

We are aware of a number of such cases through press reports and information supplied by the police, individuals who have been personally involved, and the national anti-stalking and harassment campaign, NASH. NASH has also provided a number of detailed assessments of the problem, including proposals to amend the law to make stalking a specific criminal offence.

This is, however, a difficult area in which to legislate, since the behaviour of stalkers can range from ostensibly harmless activities such as sitting outside a person's house, following them, and sending flowers and chocolates—which cannot be prohibited by law—to more serious actions, such as making threats, nuisance telephone calls, and sending abusive letters—which are already criminal offences.

I have responded to NASH, and to others, expressing the Government's reservations about legislating in this area. Nevertheless, we are aware that specific anti-stalking legislation is in place in the United States and Canada, and we are examining their laws to see if there are any lessons to be learnt.

Children (Interviews)

Mr. Alan Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to include guidance on interviewing children with special needs within the memorandum of good practice in line with the Criminal Justice Act 1991. [32044]

Mr. Maclean: We are considering whether to revise the memorandum of good practice to take account of this and other points raised by research and experience to date.

Sabotage

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice his department has offered to farmers and the food industry on measures they can take to protect themselves from sabotage and other acts of violence; and if he will make a statement. [31166]

Mr. Michael Howard: The animal rights national index, which is based at New Scotland Yard and funded by my Department, provides regular briefings to companies and other national organisations at risk from animal rights extremists. The index also provides assessments and other material for police special branches to support them discharge their responsibility for organising local briefings for those considered to be possible targets. Where individuals or locations are assessed to be at particular risk, the police offer specific protective security advice.

Closed Circuit Television

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to initiate another competition for closed circuit television funding. [32735]

Mr. Maclean: The recent CCTV challenge competition injected £5 million into local CCTV schemes, generating up to £13.8 million in other funding. Although my right hon. and learned Friend has not ruled out the possibility of further competitions in the future, it is too early to give a firm commitment.

Mr. Corbett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what specific funding is available in the current financial year and in 1996–97 to assist with the installation of closed circuit television in shopping centres and high streets. [32380]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* Local authorities can bid for funds under the single regeneration budget challenge fund for various specific purposes, including the establishment of CCTV schemes. The recent CCTV challenge competition has injected £5 million into local CCTV schemes, generating up to £13.8 million in other funding. The possibility of further competition in the future has not been ruled out but it is too early to give a firm commitment.

Private Security Industry

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to respond to the first report from the Home Affairs Committee HC17 on the private security industry. [32736]

Mr. Maclean: My right hon. and learned Friend has asked colleagues for their views on the report, and the Government will then respond as soon as possible.

Metropolitan Police Committee

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Metropolitan Police Committee to issue its first annual report. [32739]

Mr. Maclean: This is a matter for the chairman of the Metropolitan Police Committee.

Reactivated Firearms

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information he has about shootings involving reactivated firearms. [32981]

Mr. Maclean: We are aware of 19 incidents since the beginning of 1993 involving firearms which have been identified as being previously deactivated and then reactivated to working condition. The standards to which firearms are deactivated have been comprehensively reviewed. Revised, more stringent, specifications will be introduced shortly.

Police Paperwork

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 9 February, *Official Report*, column *383*, what progress has been made on the development of a standard computer system for all police forces. [32856]

Mr. Maclean: A standard computer system for case processing is being developed by Greater Manchester police as part of the national strategy for police information systems. The system is expected to make a significant contribution towards reducing police paperwork, in keeping with the recommendations of the recent efficiency scrutiny of the administrative burdens on the police. Standard computer systems for the custody process, the provision of management information, and the direction of police responses to incidents, which were identified by the police service as priorities for immediate national development, are also now being taken forward. Avon and Somerset constabulary, Hertfordshire constabulary and the Metropolitan police have undertaken to produce standard systems for each of these essential tasks. We expect that the first of these systems will become available towards the end of next year. The Government are providing both technical and financial assistance to each of the lead forces.

Neckholds

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports his Department has received about deaths or injuries from the use of neckholds; what plans he has to review their continued use or training arrangements appertaining to officers authorised to use them; and if he will make a statement. [32093]

Mr. Maclean: The Police Complaints Authority, in its annual report for 1993, stated that it had passed expert opinion on the effect of neckholds and certain armlocks to the relevant committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers. I understand that that committee has almost completed a review of the guidance on self-defence and restraint. Training of police officers in the use of self-defence and restraint techniques is a matter for the chief officer of each force.

Retail Staff

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, columns 268–69, if he will list the types of violence against retailers that has led to representations being made to him by right hon. and hon. Members. [32252]

Mr. Maclean: The representations made to my right hon. and learned Friend were made in response to a proposition carried at the 1995 annual delegate meeting of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, USDAW. This proposition, which was copied to hon. Members, referred to the deaths of, and attacks against, retail workers.

Crime Statistics

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds on the incidence of crime by geographical area smaller than police force area; and if this information can be related to post code areas. [31929]

Mr. Maclean: Information on notifiable offences recorded by the police is collected regularly by the Home Office only at police force area level. More local figures are obtained from forces on an ad hoc basis in order to

answer specific requests for internal briefing, or for use in research projects.

Arrests

Ms Gordon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for all types of offence in each police force area in 1994. [31367]

Mr. Maclean: The available information relates to the total number of arrests and is given in the table.

Total arrests in England and Wales in 1994, by police force area

Police force area	*Number of arrests in 1994*
Avon and Somerset	40,875
Bedfordshire	18,005
Cambridgeshire	19,320
Cheshire	31,767
Cleveland	28,694
Cumbria	20,282
Derbyshire	25,181
Devon and Cornwall	35,707
Dorset	16,675
Durham	27,190
Essex	42,120
Gloucestershire	17,980
Greater Manchester	123,855
Hampshire	64,285
Hertfordshire	21,483
Humberside	32,618
Kent	54,509
Lancashire	62,546
Leicestershire	23,133
Lincolnshire	20,277
London, City of	6,070
Merseyside	68,059
Metropolitan Police	150,951
Norfolk	15,844
Northamptonshire	20,420
Northumbria	69,001
North Yorkshire	23,652
Nottinghamshire	41,517
South Yorkshire	50,629
Staffordshire	38,419
Suffolk	16,652
Surrey	18,046
Sussex	39,633
Thames Valley	60,913
Warwickshire	16,054
West Mercia	39,214
West Midlands	133,156
West Yorkshire	81,314
Wiltshire	16,025
Dyfed Powys	16,068
Gwent	21,523
North Wales	26,360
South Wales	57,386
England and Wales	1,753,408

Michael Bettaney

Mr. Bermingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the security alert that took place at Swaleside prison on Saturday 27 May involving the convicted spy Michael Bettaney; if Michael Bettaney had access to maps, drawings and photographs of the outside of the prison; what disciplinary proceedings have arisen or will arise out of this incident; when Michael Bettaney's case will next be reviewed by the parole board; and for what reasons Michael Bettaney is held in conditions that isolate him from other prisoners at Swaleside prison. [28351]

Mr. Michael Howard *[holding answer 13 June 1995]:* Through the vigilance of staff supervising a visit at Swaleside prison on 27 May, a number of photographs were confiscated from Michael Bettaney, along with a crude outline drawing showing Swaleside and Elmley prisons as squares.

Security at the prison has not been compromised. The police have now concluded their investigations and reported to the Crown Prosecution Service. A Prison Service inquiry is now taking place into the incident and the question of disciplinary proceedings will be decided when that inquiry is concluded and after the Crown Prosecution Service has decided whether to take action.

Michael Bettaney became eligible for parole after serving a third of his sentence and, like other prisoners, his case is reviewed annually.

For reasons of national security I am unable to discuss the conditions in which Michael Bettaney is held, or the reasons for them.

Ian Hay

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will agree to meet a delegation of constituents concerned about the circumstances surrounding the killing of Ian Hay by a police marksman. [32378]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* I have already agreed to meet my hon. Friend, at a mutually convenient date, to discuss his constituents' concerns about this case.

Police Tasks Review

Mr. Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the total cost of undertaking the review of police core and ancillary tasks; how many of his Department's officials were allocated to work on the review; and how many staff hours were spent on it. [32079]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* Five Home Office staff and one Metropolitan police chief inspector were allocated to the review. The total staff hours are estimated at 12,000. The associated pay costs, travelling and subsistence, and the estimated cost of printing and distribution, amounted to about £233,000. This does not include the costs incurred by other organisations involved in the review.

Sex Tourism

Mrs. Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultations he has had with other EU member states concerning possible measures to prevent sex tourism and the sexual abuse of children in developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [28839]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 15 June 1995]:* We are monitoring closely the ability of other countries' laws, including those of other EU member states, to deal with the problem of child prostitution and sex tourism, to see whether any lessons can be learnt.

Mrs. Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to introduce legislation to permit the prosecution in the United Kingdom of United Kingdom subjects who commit sexual offences, with particular reference to those against children, in foreign countries. [28837]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 15 June 1995]:* The Government deplore the sexual exploitation of children, wherever it may occur. Our own law against such abuse is rightly severe. Our courts' jurisdiction, though, is territorially based rather than nationality based, and we therefore have no power to prosecute British nationals who commit offences against children in other countries.

We are, however, considering whether there is any scope for further Government action to tackle the problem of child prostitution and sex tourism.

Mrs. Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he intends to take to monitor the sale and promotion of sex holidays in foreign countries by tour operators, travel agents and individuals in the United Kingdom. [28838]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 15 June 1995]:* We are aware of the concern about the sale and promotion of sex holidays in foreign countries by tour operators, travel agents and individuals in the United Kingdom. By its nature, such activity does not lend itself likely to monitoring by the Government. We are, however, currently considering whether international police liaison in this area could be improved.

Young Prisoners

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the number of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls under the age of 16 years who were being held in prisons in England and Wales as of 19 June. [31099]

Miss Widdecombe *[holding answer 26 June 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Brian Landers to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 6 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question asking for the number of *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls under the age of 16 years who were being held in prisons in England and Wales as of 19 June.

The latest available provisional information is for 30 April 1995. On that date 187 males (52 remand and 135 sentenced) and 4 females (all sentenced) aged under 16 were held in Prison Service establishments in England and Wales. Information on the juvenile prison population is published in successive volumes of "Prison Statistics England and Wales" (Table 3.2 of the 1992 edition, Cm 2581), a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

TRANSPORT

Marine Rescue

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list for each year since 1986 the number of *(a)* incidents and *(b)* people involved, including those rescued, assisted and fatalities, for each marine rescue centre. [31756]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for the Coastguard Agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from C. J. Harris to Ms Joan Walley, dated 6 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Transport has asked me to reply your recent Parliamentary Question as the question deals with an operational matter, for which I have responsibility as Chief Executive.

Tables giving the details you requested have been placed in the Library.

Persons assisted is a combined total of persons assisted and rescued, separate figures are not available for the two categories.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will make his decision on the tenders for the CTRL project submitted on 14 March. [32095]

Mr. Watts: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport to my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Kent (Mr. Rowe) on 3 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *61*.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the studies that have been undertaken into the traffic impact on *(a)* Hackney and *(b)* East London generally of a channel tunnel rail link station at Stratford. [32442]

Mr. Watts: A broad brush assessment of the road traffic and highway impact of a possible channel tunnel link station at Stratford in East London is set out in Ove Arup and Partners' final report on Stratford traffic impacts, which formed part of, and was published in January 1994 at the same time as, Union Railways' report to Government on the rail link. Substantial further work will be required if it is decided that an intermediate station should be provided at Stratford.

Ferry Safety

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 23 May, *Official Report*, column *569*, how long was the interval between *(a)* the general alarm signal and the abandon ship signal, *(b)* the abandon ship signal and the reception of all passengers aboard lifeboats/liferafts and *(c)* the reception of all passengers aboard lifeboats/liferafts and the reception ashore, in the ferry exercises Common Aim 3, Claymore, Goodwin, Liverpool Bay, Eddystone, Webex, Seafire, Beauforts Dyke and Soverign. [31491]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for the Coastguard Agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from C. J. Harris to Mr. Paul Flynn, dated 3 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Transport has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question as the question deals with an operational matter, for which I have responsibility as Chief Executive.

The information requested is not recorded by the Department.

Flight Delays

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what was the average delay time of scheduled flights to European destinations from Heathrow in March and June. [31854]

Mr. Norris: The average delay to scheduled passenger flights between Heathrow and European airports in March 1995 was four minutes.

June 1995 statistics will not be available for approximately eight weeks.

Birmingham Orbital Routes

Mr. Tyler: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to invite private consortia to construct the proposed western orbital motorway around Birmingham through the design, build, finance and operate private finance initiative; and if he will make a statement; [32741]

(2) what is his current policy on the building of the proposed western orbital motorway around Birmingham as a toll motorway under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991; and when he intends to invite private consortia to bid to act as concessionaire for the route. [32740]

Mr. Watts: No decision has yet been taken to build the western orbital. The next step in the planning of the scheme would be the publication of draft orders which would open a formal objection period leading to a public inquiry.

The trunk roads review, published in March 1994, indicated that the western orbital route would be considered for its suitability to be taken forward under a design, build, finance, and operate contract. DBFO contracts involve remuneration to operators from Government, and do not require payment of tolls by road users.

Train Services

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy in meeting the needs of passengers of the integration and co-ordination of bank holiday services stopping at Epsom, Dorking, Havant and Portsmouth, run by South West Trains and Network South Central and services stopping at Portsmouth harbour run by Regional Railways. [32621]

Mr. Watts: None. This is an operational matter for British Rail and its train operating units.

Motorway Charging

Mr. Tyler: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to sign contracts for design, build, finance and operate road schemes, prior to enacting legislation to enable a charge to be levied from users of existing motorways. [32745]

(2) what studies he has carried out into the implications for public spending of the design, build, finance and operate private finance initiative if Government plans for motorway charging is abandoned or substantially delayed; [32742]

(3) whether he intends his plans for motorway charging to encompass *(a)* the A419/A417 Swindon-Gloucester road, *(b)* the A69 Newcastle-Carlisle road, *(c)* the A30/A35 Exeter-Bere Regis Road, *(d)* the A50/A564 Stoke-Derby road and *(e)* other all-purpose trunk roads. [32744]

Mr. Watts: Competitions for the first two tranches of DBFO projects, comprising eight schemes, are currently under way. They are expected to be concluded later this year and early next year respectively. The DBFO initiative is not conditional on charging users directly for the use of inter-urban roads. Remuneration of DBFO operators, which will be over 30 years and linked to usage, will be met from the resources available to this Department for its spending programmes.

Legislation would be required to introduce charging and that would be a matter for Parliament in due course. The Government have said that they envisage charging for the motorway network.

Mr. Tyler: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is his timetable for his plans to charge motorists for the use of motorways; and if he will make a statement. [32746]

Mr. Watts: Policy on motorway charging remains as stated by the then Secretary of State for Transport in the *Official Report*, column *646–49*, on 2 December 1993. Its introduction is subject to the availability of suitable technology, which is being assessed, and Parliament's approval of the necessary legislation.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Household Income

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the average annual household income after deduction of direct and indirect taxation and housing costs at 1995 prices of *(a)* the richest 20 per cent. and *(b)* the poorest 20 per cent. of families in each year since 1979 in (i) York, (ii) north Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England. [31606]

Mr. Burt: The information is not available in the form requested.

Estimates of average household income after direct and indirect taxation for the richest and poorest 20 per cent. of households in the United Kingdom as a whole, have been published each year since 1957 in an article on "The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Incomes" in "Economic Trends". The most recent estimates for 1993 are available in the December edition of 'Economic Trends' No. 494 (HMSO ISBN 011 620643 8).

In addition, estimates of patterns of personal disposable income in the United Kingdom can be found in "Households Below Average Income 1979—1992–93"—HMSO ISBN 011 762 3180—published in June this year.

Copies of both publications are in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, what are the Government estimates of the percentage of unemployment benefit claimants disqualified from benefit for leaving employment voluntarily, being dismissed for misconduct or for refusal of employment since April 1994, who would be eligible for jobseeker's allowance hardship payments for *(a)* the

completed period of disqualification and *(b)* part of the period of disqualification. [32592]

Mr. Roger Evans: The arrangements for access to hardship payments of jobseeker's allowance will broadly follow those which apply for actively seeking work in income support. As now, entitlement to hardship payments will be decided by an adjudication officer on a case-by-case basis. Figures for those who would be entitled to such payments under jobseeker's allowance are therefore not available.

However, the estimated financial effects of the jobseeker's act include an assumption that up to 90 per cent. of those currently receiving a reduced rate of income support because of a disqualification from unemployment benefit would receive a jobseeker's allowance hardship payment at some point during an equivalent jobseeker's allowance sanction.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people have had their benefits reduced for failing to attend or complete a compulsory programme in each quarter since January 1993. [32187]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information is set out in the table:

Number of reductions in benefit following failure to attend or complete a compulsory programme

Quarter year	*Restart courses*	*Jobplan workshops*[1]	*Totals*
1993			
January–March	900	—	900
April–June	3,800	—	3,800
July–September	7,300	—	7,300
October–December	12,300	—	12,300
1994			
January–March	13,200	—	13,200
April–June	7,600	9,800	17,400
July–September	7,400	11,400	18,800
October–December	7,300	11,300	18,600
1995[2]			
January–March	6,100	9,400	15,500

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest hundred.
[1] Jobplan Workshops started in April 1993. From April 1993 to March 1994 statistics were combined with those for Restart courses.
[2] Figures for 1995 are provisional and subject to amendment.

Mortgage Interest

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to his answer of 27 June, *Official Report*, columns *584–85*, following the introduction of changes to the rules on income support help with mortgage interest payments, what consideration will be given to unemployed people now receiving income support help with mortgage interest payments who refuse to accept temporary or seasonal employment contracts that may extend to over 12 weeks in duration but which may return them to unemployment after 1 October 1995. [32113]

Mr. Roger Evans: A person refusing temporary or seasonal employment without good cause will be disqualified for receipt of unemployment benefit for a period of up to 26 weeks, but not extending beyond the period for which the employment in question would have been available. As long as the job refused remains open to the claimant, there is normally no entitlement to income support, except under the hardship provisions. If, however, the job is no longer open to the claimant any entitlement to income support will be subject to a reduction in the personal allowance for the same period. If income support is paid under either of these alternative routes, any help with mortgage interest payments is unaffected. Decisions on benefit are taken by independent adjudication officers, who are supported by advice contained in the adjudication officer's guide, a copy of which is in the Library. There is no intention to amend the legislation on good cause for refusing employment as a result of the change to the income support rules on mortgage interest payments.

Optical Character Recognition

Mr. Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will make a statement on his plans to introduce optical character recognition into his Department's processing of benefit applications. [32913]

Mr. Roger Evans: The Department is looking at this technology for benefit applications.

However, there are a number of issues to be resolved before any decisions can be made.

Income Support

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many income support and unemployment benefit claimants have *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully claimed income support under the hardship rules for each region and for Great Britain as a whole for each quarter since April 1994, indicating those whose claim was in doubt due to their (i) not actively seeking work and (ii) availability for work. [32594]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information is set out in the table.

Income Support hardship decisions 1994–95

Quarter 1994	*Region*[1]	*Actively seeking*[2] *Awarded*	*Refused*	*Availability*[3] *Awarded*	*Refused*
April—June	SE	100	100	400	600
	W and CE	100	200	200	100
	S and NE	—	200	100	100
	Total[4]	300	500	700	900

Income Support hardship decisions 1994–95

Quarter 1994	Region[1]	Actively seeking[2] Awarded	Actively seeking[2] Refused	Availability[3] Awarded	Availability[3] Refused
July—September	SE	100	100	400	700
	W and CE	200	200	300	200
	S and NE	—	100	200	200
	Total[4]	300	400	800	1,000
October—December	SE	100	100	400	700
	W and CE	300	400	300	300
	S and NE	—	100	100	200
	Total[4]	400	700	900	1,200
January—March[5]	SE	100	400	700	700
	W and CE	400	700	300	300
	S and NE	100	100	100	300
	Total[4]	600	1,200	1,100	1,300

[1] The regions are: Southern England (SE); Wales and Central England (W and CE); and Scotland and North East (S and NE).
[2] Awards or refusals of hardship payments under Income Support (General) Regulation 10A to those not actively seeking work.
[3] Awards or refusals of hardship payments under Income Support (General) Regulation 8 to those not available for work.
[4] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100; therefore totals are not necessarily the sum of the regional figures.
[5] Figures for January—March 1995 are provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will give the number of people claiming income support by *(a)* gender and *(b)* age for each region and nation in the United Kingdom in (i) May 1994 and (ii) the latest month for which figures are available. [32983]

Mr. Burt: I have placed a copy of the information in the Library.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many severe hardship *(a)* claims and *(b)* awards were made in each (i) district and (ii) area directorate in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [32978]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Science Teachers

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many science teachers in secondary schools are physics graduates; how many of these teach in *(a)* local authority-run schools, *(b)* grant-maintained schools, *(c)* independent schools and *(d)* others; and what is the proportion of physics graduates among science teachers in each category. [32239]

Mr. Robin Squire: The figures requested are only available for maintained secondary schools in England, including grant-maintained schools. The figures given relate to January 1992. On that date, there were 6,300 science teachers with a degree including physics, excluding BEds. This represented 17 per cent. of all science teachers. Separate figures are not available for grant-maintained schools.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him or ministerial colleagues in his Department paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials to public funds for each year since 1992. [32255]

Mr. Paice: The available information is given in the following table:

Record of Ministerial Overseas Travel04 July 1995

Minister	Date(s) of visit From	Date(s) of visit To	Country	Purpose of visit	Numbers in Delegation	Expenditure £
Secretary of State	29/04/92	30/4/92	Luxembourg	Social Affairs Council	6	2,231.00
Minister of State	11/06/92	12/06/92	Switzerland	Conference	2	1,504.00
Secretary of State	11/06/92	12/06/92	Spain/Italy	Social Affairs Bilateral	3	3,615.00
Secretary of State	16/06/92	16/06/92	Netherlands	Social Affairs Bilateral	3	1,668.00
Secretary of State	23/06/92	24/06/92	Luxembourg	Social Affairs Council	7	2,393.00
Minister of State	06/09/92	10/09/92	Poland/Bulgaria	Agreement Signing	2	2,200.00
Secretary of State	08/09/92	09/09/92	France	Social Affairs Bilateral	3	1,874.00
Secretary of State	14/09/92	17/09/92	Russia	UK Know How Fund	4	13,281.00
Viscount Ullswater	21/09/92	23/09/92	France/Belgium	Fact Finding Visit	2	1,585.00
Secretary of State	22/09/92	22/09/92	Belgium	Social Affairs Council	5	1,841.00

Record of Ministerial Overseas Travel04 July 1995

Minister	*Date(s) of visit From*	*To*	*Country*	*Purpose of visit*	*Numbers in Delegation*	*Expenditure £*
Patrick McLoughlin	26/09/92	03/10/92	Japan	Fact Finding Visit	2	15,823.00
Minister of State	27/09/92	02/10/92	U.S.A.	Fact Finding Visit	2	13,143.00
Viscount Ullswater	18/11/92	20/11/92	Poland	UK Know How Fund	2	1,501.00
Secretary of State/Minister of State	03/12/92	03/12/92	Belgium	Social Affairs Council	8	2,240.00
Viscount Ullswater	01/04/93	08/04/93	U.S.A./Canada	Fact Finding Visit	2	15,495.00
Secretary of State	05/04/93	06/04/93	Luxembourg	Social Affairs Council	7	1,163.00
Secretary of State	30/04/93	30/04/93	France	Social Affairs Bilateral	4	1,141.00
Minister of State	03/05/93	05/05/93	Denmark/Germany	Social Affairs Bilateral	7	3,881.00
Secretary of State/Minister of State	31/05/93	01/06/93	Luxembourg	Social Affairs Council	9	4,049.00
Minister of State	03/06/93	04/06/93	Hungary	UK Know How Fund	2	2,387.00
Ann Widdecombe	09/06/93	10/06/93	Switzerland	Conference	1	699.00
Secretary of State	25/07/93	30/07/93	U.S.A.	Fact Finding Visit	4	21,977.00
Ann Widdecombe	01/09/93	03/09/93	Germany	Fact Finding Visit	2	1,393.00
Secretary of State	03/09/93	03/09/93	Belgium	Social Affairs Bilateral	3	1,016.49
Ann Widdecombe	08/09/93	10/09/93	Spain	Fact Finding Visit	2	2,818.00
Secretary of State	13/09/93	23/09/93	Far East Tour	Fact Finding Visit	3	20,195.00
Minister of State	13/09/93	14/09/93	Sweden	Fact Finding Visit	2	1,019.00
Minister of State	20/09/93	21/09/93	Czech Rep/Slovakia	Agreement Signing	3	6,208.32
Minister of State/Miss Widdecombe	22/09/93	24/09/93	Belgium	Informal Social Affairs Council	3	1,688.00
Minister of State	24/09/93	01/10/93	Australia	Fact Finding Visit	3	14,807.00
Secretary of State	29/09/93	29/09/93	Netherlands	Social Affairs Bilateral	2	773.00
Secretary of State/Minister of State	11/10/93	12/10/93	Luxembourg	Social Affairs Council	8	4,030.82
Lord Henley	19/10/93	19/10/93	Belgium	Conference	1	434.00
Minister of State	28/10/93	29/10/93	Malta	Council Of Europe Meeting	2	5,279.07
Secretary of State/Minister of State	22/11/93	23/11/93	Belgium	Social Affairs Council	8	3,230.29
Ann Widdecombe	16/12/93	16/12/93	Ireland	Symposium on Older Workers	2	942.50
Secretary of State	22/02/94	22/02/94	Germany	Social Affairs Bilateral	3	863.79
Secretary of State	01/03/94	01/03/94	France	Social Affairs Bilateral	3	1,352.48
Minister of State	09/03/94	11/03/94	Greece	Informal Social Affairs Council	2	2,321.24
Secretary of State	09/03/94	09/03/94	Italy	Social Affairs Bilateral	2	1,433.05
Secretary of State	10/03/94	16/03/94	U.S.A./Canada	G7 Jobs Conference	6	21,011.75
Ann Widdecombe	05/04/94	07/04/94	Bulgaria	Fact Finding Visit	3	2.705.59
Minister of State	18/04/94	19/04/94	Belgium	Social Affairs Council	6	2,718.80
Secretary of State	07/06/94	08/06/94	France and Italy	OECD/Bilateral	2	1,070.98
Minister of State	09/06/94	10/06/94	Switzerland	ILO Conference	1	914.72
Secretary of State/Minister of State	21/06/94	22/06/94	Luxembourg	Social Affairs Council	9	4,534.67
Minister of State	08/07/94	09/07/94	Germany	Informal Social Affairs Council	2	1,023.51
Secretary of State	05/09/94	05/09/94	France/Italy	Social Affairs Bilateral	4	3,460.23
Secretary of State	12/09/94	12/09/94	Belgium	Social Affairs Bilateral	3	904.03
Minister of State	15/09/94	15/09/94	Germany	Conference	3	1,316.10
Secretary of State/Minister of State	21/09/94	22/09/94	Belgium	Social Affairs Council	7	3,063.60
James Paice	03/10/94	05/10/94	Sweden	Fact Finding Visit	2	1,594.21
Minister of State	03/10/94	04/10/94	Norway/Finland	Social Affairs Bilateral	3	2,200.00
Minister of State	17/10/94	17/10/94	Austria	Conference	1	2,036.53
Secretary of State	07/11/94	08/11/94	Portugal	Fact Finding Visit	4	2,513.50
Minister of State	16/11/94	17/11/94	Czech Republic	UK Know How Fund	3	2,400.94
Secretary of State	21/11/94	21/11/94	France	OECD/Bilateral	4	1,617.52
Minister of State	25//11/94	25/11/94	Italy	Social Affairs Bilateral	3	2,188.50
Secretary of State/Minister of State	05/12/94	06/12/94	Belgium	Social Affairs Council	10	5,159.69
Minister of State	21/12/94	21/12/94	Belgium	Social Affairs Council	7	2,805.41
Secretary of State	23/01/95	23/01/95	Belgium	Social Affairs Council	8	2,351.37
Secretary of State	28/01/95	30/01/95	Switzerland	Conference	0	422.78
James Paice	02/03/95	03/03/95	France	Conference	2	972.52
Minister of State	21/03/95	21/03/95	Ireland	Social Affairs Bilateral	2	939.00
Secretary of State/Minister of State	26/03/95	27/03/95	Belgium	Social Affairs Council	6	3,873.72
Secretary of State/Minister of State	29/03/95	30/03/95	France	Conference	4	1,963.41

Record of Ministerial Overseas Travel04 July 1995

Minister	*Date(s) of visit From*	*To*	*Country*	*Purpose of visit*	*Numbers in Delegation*	*Expenditure £*
Minister of State	09/04/95	13/04/95	Hungary/Poland	UK Know How Fund	2	2,820.08
Minister of State	08/06/95	09/06/95	Switzerland	ILO Conference	1	[1]245.23
Secretary of State/Minister of State	28/06/95	29/06/95	Luxembourg	Social Affairs Council	8	4,686.27

[1] Final costs of this visit not yet brought to account.

Notes on Office Holders:

Secretary of State:

April 1992—May 1993: Mrs. Shepherd.

May 1993—July 1994: Mr. Hunt.

July 1994—to date: Mr. Portillo.

Minister of State:

April 1992—July 1994: Mr. Forsyth.

July 1994—to date: Miss Widdecombe.

Assaults on Staff

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment for each quarter since January 1992, what is the number of recorded assaults on staff by claimants in Employment Service offices. [32360]

Mr. Paice: I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for the subject of the question has been delegated to the Employment Service under its chief executive. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from M. E. G. Fogden to Mr. Stephen Byers dated 6 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the number of recorded assaults on staff by claimants in Employment Service (ES) offices during each quarter from January 1992.

There are currently around of 1,200 ES local offices carrying out some 2 million direct transactions with the public each week, so in any one quarter there are approximately 25 million face to face contacts with the public. It is against this backdrop that the following table of recorded assaults over the past 3 years should be seen.

Quarter ending	*Actual assaults*[1]	*Attempted assaults*	*Verbal assaults*
March 1992	38	13	284
June 1992	44	47	250
September 1992	49	116	149
December 1992	72	169	158
March 1993	70	123	156
June 1993	69	79	187
September 1993	74	140	231
December 1993	45	116	155
March 1994	61	91	249
June 1994	42	54	179
September 1994	70	59	483
December 1994	92	50	474
March 1995	91	51	664

[1] These figures include staff who sustained no physical injury as a result of the assault.

The ES takes very seriously the safety of its people and over the past two years we have regularly emphasised the importance of reporting all incidents and staff have been actively encouraged to do so. Furthermore, the likelihood of assault in every ES local office is assessed by trained risk assessors and appropriate steps taken to reduce the risk.

I hope this is helpful.

Schools

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* education authority secondary schools, *(b)* grant-maintained schools, *(c)* independent schools and *(d)* others there were at the latest available date. [32240]

Mr. Robin Squire: The latest available information for all school types at a consistent date is shown in the table.

Schools in England—January 1994

	Primary	*Secondary*	*Total*
LEA maintained	18,423	3,075	21,498
Grant maintained	260	554	814
Independent[1]	[2]—	[2]—	2,268
Others[3]	[2]—	[2]—	1,862

[1] Includes direct grant nursery schools.

[2] Independent schools and special schools may cater for pupils of all ages and are not classified into primary and secondary schools.

[3] Includes maintained nursery schools and special schools.

On 1 July 1995, there were 422 grant-maintained primary schools, 631 GM secondary schools and four GM special schools operating in England.

Grant-maintained Schools

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will list the primary and secondary schools in the Tonbridge and Malling constituency that have achieved grant-maintained status and those schools where applications for grant-maintained status are awaiting her decision.

Mr. Robin Squire: There are currently 10 grant-maintained schools in the Tonbridge and Malling constituency. Details are as follows.

Primary schools

Ditton CE Primary School

Ditton Infant School

Snodland CE Primary School

Brookfield Primary School

Secondary schools

Aylesford School

Hillview School for Girls

The Hayesbrook School

The Hugh Christie School

The Malling School

Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls

At present, there are no schools in this constituency with applications for grant-maintained status under consideration.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Integrated Administration and Control System

16. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what assessment he has made of whether the guidelines and penalties under the IACS scheme are sufficiently clear and that the penalties are in proportion to the offence committed. [31177]

Mr. Baldry: The rules on penalties are set out clearly in the IACS 1995 booklet; under the scheme rules there is no discretion to waive or reduce penalties.

Sheep

17. **Dr. Lynne Jones:** To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which of the recommendations from the Farm Animal Welfare Council's report on the welfare of sheep have not been implemented; and if he will make a statement. [31178]

Mrs. Browning: The Farm Animal Welfare Council's report made a practical and positive contribution to the welfare of sheep. Our detailed response to the Council's recommendations was published on 29 March this year. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Organic Food

19. **Dr. Wright:** To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what proposals he has to encourage organic food production. [31181]

Mr. Boswell: The Government are already doing a great deal to encourage the production of more organic food, including the introduction of the organic aid scheme a substantial R and D programme and support for the work of the independent United Kingdom register of organic food standards.

Milk

20. **Mr. Colin Shepherd:** To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when he will next meet the President of the National Farmers' Union to discuss the marketing of milk. [31182]

Mr. Baldry: My right hon. Friend the previous Minister regularly met representatives of all sides of the agriculture industry, including the president of the National Farmers' Union, to discuss issues of importance to them. I am sure that my right hon. Friend the new Minister will continue this regular dialogue.

Veal Calves

21. **Lady Olga Maitland:** To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what steps he is taking to promote humane rearing of veal in Europe. [31183]

Mrs. Browning: My right hon. Friend the previous Minister secured the agreement of the European Commission to bring forward from 1997 its review of directive 91/629/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves. The Commission has work in hand and when its report comes forward to the Council, we shall press the case for an early end to the use in the European Union of close confinement systems for rearing calves. In preparation for this, I have visited EU capitals to enlist ministerial support. The response was encouraging.

Pesticides

22. **Ms Quin:** To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what research his Department is currently undertaking into the use of pesticides on food crops. [31184]

Mrs. Browning: MAFF has a wide range of research related to the use of pesticides on food crops; the various elements of this research are designed to contribute both to the Government's policy objective that pesticide use should be limited to the minimum necessary for the effective control of pests compatible with the protection of human health and the environment, and to the improvement of the economic performance of the agriculture and horticulture industries. The recently published "MAFF Research Strategy 1995" sets out the Ministry's current strategy for research and provides a more detailed examination of the R and D programme in each sector.

Common Fisheries Policy

23. **Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what steps he is taking to develop ideas for the reform of the common fisheries policy in 2002. [31185]

Mr. Baldry: My predecessor established the common fisheries policy review group, whose job it is to come up with constructive and realistic proposals for improving the operation of the common fisheries policy. The views of fishermen have also been invited.

Animal Transportation

24. **Mr. Harry Greenway:** To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what further welfare proposals he has for animals in transit in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* abroad; and if he will make a statement. [31186]

Mrs. Browning: As my right hon. Friend the previous Minister, announced to the House on 22 June, *Official Report*, columns 477–78, the EU Council of Agriculture Ministers has reached agreement on Community-wide rules on the welfare of animals during transport. The rules introduce maximum journey limits and minimum rest periods and will apply throughout the EU. We shall circulate our proposals for implementing regulations in due course; all member states must introduce the necessary national legislation to implement the agreement by 31 December 1996.

Pesticides

25. **Mr. Win Griffiths:** To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make a statement about the levels of pesticide residues found in fruit and vegetables. [31187]

Mrs. Browning: The Government have a substantial annual surveillance programme for pesticide residues in a wide range of foodstuffs, including fruit and vegetables. The results are published annually in the report of the working party on pesticide residues. In the most recent report, no residues were found in 66 per cent. of all samples and the maximum permissible residue was exceeded in only 1 per cent. of samples. The residues found had no implications for human health.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what steps he is taking to reduce the level of pesticides leaching into United Kingdom waterways. [31175]

Mrs. Browning: The pesticides approval process takes into account their potential to contaminate water and approval conditions are set to minimise contamination.

Fish Stocks

Mr. Elletson: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what steps he is taking to ensure that future stocks of fish are adequately protected. [31180]

Mr. Baldry: Britain contributes fully to the common fisheries policy, which exists to ensure the sustainable exploitation of fish resources in the waters of the European Union.

DEFENCE

Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether service personnel who took part in the service volunteers programme at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment can have access to the laboratory and scientific records of experiments and studies in which they participated. [31957]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, DERA to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 6 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking whether the Service Personnel who were Volunteers at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) can have access to the laboratory and scientific records of the experiments in which they participated has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA), which since April, includes CBDE as one of its divisions.

2. It is a long standing policy of CBDE to provide details, on request, of the studies in which a Service volunteer participated to the medical practitioners who are responsible for the medical care of the individual concerned. The medical practitioner can then take into account activities undertaken at CBDE in their ongoing care for their patient. Former volunteers who have written directly to CBDE requesting information on the studies undertaken are also given an outline of the type of investigation in which they participated, but more detailed information is only released to qualified medical personnel with a direct responsibility for the individual.

3. I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what medical countermeasures to protect service personnel have been developed by the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment since 1980 following studies and tests with service volunteers. [31971]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, DERA to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 6 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking what medical countermeasures have been developed by the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) since 1980 following studies and tests with Service volunteers has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, incudes CBDE as one of its divisions.

2. The nature of the medical countermeasures available to defend the United Kingdom Armed Forces against the threat posed by chemical and biological warfare agents continues to be a sensitive matter. The knowledge of countermeasures clearly diminishes their value and I am not, therefore, able to go into detail. I can, however, say that some of the studies undertaken using Service volunteers have enabled the development of an improved combined therapy auto-injector used to combat the post-attack symptoms of nerve agent poisoning.

3. I hope this information is helpful to you.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service volunteers were involved in studies with the MK 4 overboot at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down; when these studies were carried out; what was the nature and conclusion of these studies; under which defence agreement the results of these studies were shared with other countries; and when these overboots were issued for use by the armed forces. [31959]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, DERA to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 6 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence about the studies on the Mk 4 overboot at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, has included CBDE as one of its divisions.

2. The development of the Mark 4 overboot began in the late 1970's. CBDE's contribution to the programme was to provide general advice on design and material testing. Studies of this nature involved no use of Service volunteers by CBDE. Wearer trials to determine the acceptability of the new design for use in military operations were conducted for the programme's sponsoring branch, the Directorate of Clothing and Textiles, by the Defence Nuclear Biological Chemical Centre at Winterbourne Gunner.

3. The development of the Mk 4 overboot was carried out wholly by the United Kingdom and the results of studies undertaken as part of the programme were not shared with other nations.

4. The Mark 4 overboot was accepted into service in 1984 and the first production run was completed in 1986.

5. I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what grounds it was considered necessary to create an Independent Ethics Committee in July 1991 to oversee the service volunteer programme at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down; why the previous committee of Porton Down medical officers was set up; on what date it was set up; and if the

Committee of Porton Down Medical Officers ever exercised its veto on human experiments. [31960]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The creation of the Independent Ethics Committee in July 1991, followed the publication of guidelines from the Royal College of Physicians. The previously existing committees were subsumed into it in order to ensure that the CBDE continued to follow best practice. No studies involving service volunteers can be conducted without the approval of the committee, which reviews the protocols to ensure that every study has a clear military justification and a risk assessment has been carried out.

The Committee on the Safety of Human Experiments, whose membership included the medical officers of CBDE, was set up in 1963 by the then Director, Mr E. E. Haddon. The reason is believed to be the concern expressed internationally regarding the ethics of human experimentation, reflected in the 1964 declaration of Helsinki.

The committee had the right to veto studies, but more importantly was the focus for modifying protocols and maintaining the register of work. Studies could not start without the permission of the committee, which was subsumed into the IEC.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long Professor Hugh Dudley has been the chair of ethics committee overseeing the service volunteers programme at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down; who else is currently serving on this committee; how many members of Porton Down staff serve on this committee and what post they hold within Porton Down; if the committee has the right to veto experiments involving service volunteers; in what years the committee has met more than four times since its inception and what the reason for this was; and if he will place all the minutes of this committee since its inception in the Library. [31975]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Professor Dudley has been the chairman of the Independent Ethics Committee since its inception in 1991 in response to the Royal College of Physicians' guidelines for experiments involving human subjects. The committee consists of 11 members, nine of whom are drawn from outside the MOD. The external members of the committee include representatives of the medical and legal profession, senior academics and lay people. The senior military officer and the technical director of the CBDE are the only members of the CBDE staff who are members of the committee. No studies involving service volunteers can be conducted without the approval of the ethnic committee.

The panel has not yet found it necessary to meet on more than four occasions in a year, but provision remains for it to do so, if required. The minutes of this committee include matters which are of commercial and defence sensitivity and it would not be appropriate to place them in the Library of the House of Commons.

Nerve Agents

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report*, columns *711-12*, on what dates the results of the NAPS studies were published in the scientific journals named. [31962]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, DERA to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 6 July 1995:

Your question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking, pursuant to his Answer of 16th March, on what dates the results of the NAPS studies were published in the scientific journals named, has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its divisions.

2. The articles on studies involving NAPS were published in Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology in January 1978, in the Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology in July 1978 and May 1979, and in the Fundamentals of Applied Pharmacology in December 1985.

3. I hope this information is helpful.

Press Conference

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which journalists and publications were invited to attend his press conference with his French counterpart on 27 June; what criteria were adopted in deciding who was invited to attend; and if he will make a statement on the exclusion of journalists from the press conference. [32432]

Mr. Soames: Invitations to the press briefing on 27 June were extended to French correspondents and broadcast organisations based in London and to accredited defence correspondents of main domestic news media. The Defence press office, which was responsible for issuing invitations, did not seek to exclude journalists from any recognised news organisation.

Third Country Trading Relations

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 29 June, *Official Report*, column *749*, if he will examine evidence submitted by hon. Members of links between British firms and Licentee AG of Switzerland. [32953]

Mr. Arbuthnot: If hon. Members have evidence of illegal activity this would be a matter for the enforcement agencies.

Nuclear Weapon Testing

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his French counterpart about France's decision to resume nuclear weapon testing. [32088]

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he made to his French counterpart during their meeting in London on 27 June on the proposals by France to resume nuclear tests in Mururoa; and what representations he has recently received on nuclear testing. [31948]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I have nothing to add to the reply given to the hon. Member for Southwark and Bermondsey (Mr. Hughes) on 4 July, *Official Report*, column *180*.

Ministerial Visit

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he intends next to visit NATO headquarters in Brussels. [32725]

Mr. Soames: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence is due to visit NATO Headquarters for the Defence Planning Committee on 29 and 30 November 1995.

HMS Andromeda

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to whom HMS Andromeda has been sold; what assessment his Department has made as to whether it received good value for money from the sale; what is his Department's definition of value for money; and if he will make a statement. [32724]

Mr. Arbuthnot: HMS Andromeda was sold to the Indian navy in March this year. It is not our practice to reveal details of such sales in the interest of customer confidentiality, but I can say that the price realised directly to the taxpayer met the criteria given in my reply to the hon. Member for Dunfermline, West (Ms Squire) of 14 February, *Official Report*, column *613*. The sale has also generated work for a number of British companies in the refit and spares support fields.

Offset Obligation Agreements

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those occasions during the last 10 years in which, as part of an international participation agreement, his Department has made credit available for the establishment of joint venture companies, technology transfers and defence research and development contracts. [32416]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Offshore suppliers of equipment to the MOD may meet their industrial participation, or offset, commitments in a number of ways, including transfer of technology, the award of defence research and development contracts and certain work arising from the establishment of joint venture companies. Such arrangements are commercially confidential, and we cannot disclose details.

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the offset agreements with *(a)* the United States and *(b)* other manufacturers of defence equipment signed during the last 10 years; and if he will list the value in each case. [32417]

Mr. Arbuthnot: A list of offset obligation agreements singed during the last 10 years follows. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, I am unable to list individual values.

List of industrial participation obligations signedover the last 10 years

Company (US unless stated)	*Equipment*
Boeing Corp.	AWACS
Boeing Hel	Chinook Mid-Life Update
CAE Electronics (Canada)	Magnetic Anomoly Detector
CAE Electronics (Canada)	Merlin Training System
Computing Devices Canada (CDC) (Canada)	Challenger II (Fire Control System)
Cummins	Power Pack for AS90 SP Howitzer
E Systems	Nimrod Update (Starwindow)
General Dynamics	Phalanx Close In Weapon System (CIWS)
General Electric	i. Goalkeeper II ii. Sonar 2093
General Instrument	Radar Warning Receiver (RWR)
Hughes	Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM)
Lockheed	C-130J
Martin Marietta	Skynet Launch Vehicle
McDonnell Douglas	Follow-on buy of Ship Launch Harpoon Systems
McDonnell Douglas	Skynet (Expendable Launch Vehicle)
Raytheon	Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS)
Rediffusion/Evans and Sutherland	Nimrod MR MK2 Simulator
SAAB (Sweden)	Direct Fire Weapons Effects Simulator (DFWES)
Sperry-Marine	NATO Ships Inertial Navigation System (SINS)
Texas Instruments	Low Level Laser Guided Bomb (LLLGB)
TRW	Ocean Surveillance Information System (OSIS)
Westinghouse	AWACS E-3D Depot Level Maintenance
Westinghouse	AWACS Radar Software Support Rig

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies his Department has undertaken of the employment effects of *(a)* offset agreements made as part of his Department's purchase of defence equipment and *(b)* offset agreements made by British companies as part of their agreement to sell to another country. [32456]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Department's aim in negotiating offset agreements with offshore companies is to attract new, quality, defence work to United Kingdom defence industry. Such work brings employment benefits to the UK, but the Department has made no study of this particular aspect. When British companies are doing business overseas, it is for them to judge the level of offset they can offer, and we have undertaken no study of the employment effects of such arrangements.

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the value of the obligation agreements with *(a)* CAE Electronics, *(b)* E–Systems, *(c)* Cummins, *(d)* Hughes Aircraft Co., *(e)* McDonnell Douglas, *(f)* Raytheon, *(g)* SAAB, *(h)* Texas Instruments, *(i)* Westinghouse and *(j)* TRW–OSIS. [32535]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The industrial participation obligation agreements which we have with offshore contractors are commercially confidential, and therefore I cannot disclose the individual values.

Astra plc

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if all the schedules of documents taken from

the Astra group of companies have now been accounted for. [30066]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* A re-sort of the seized property store, directed by the deputy chief constable of the MOD police, has accounted for all schedules of documents seized from the Astra group of companies by the MDP in relation to their investigations of corruption involving those companies.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* other Departments and *(b)* agencies of Government on bodies acting on their behalf had access to the papers taken from the Astra group of companies in early 1990. [30064]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* Department of Trade and Industry inspectors were allowed access to such papers by and in the presence of MDP officers in pursuance of their own enquiries.

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the occasions on which his police staff visited Astra plc or any of its subsidiaries between 1 January 1989 and 31 December 1991. [30100]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* Officers from the MOD police fraud squad are recorded as having visited the premises of Astra plc or its subsidiaries, in connection with the investigation of corruption involving those companies, on the following occasions between 1 January 1989 and 31 December 1991: 13 March 1990, 30 March 1990, 3 April 1990, 4 April 1990, 5 April 1990, 9 April 1990, 10 April 1990, 11 April 1990, 26 April 1990, 10 May 1990, 11 May 1990, 16 May 1990, 19 May 1990, 20 May 1990, 24 May 1990, 25 May 1990, 15 June 1990, 20 June 1990, 21 June 1990, 10 July 1990, 11 July 1990, 19 July 1990 and 7 August 1990.

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what authority Detective Inspector Berry of the MOD police was acting when he wrote to the Astra administrators on 27 January 1993. [30102]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* Detective Inspector Berry is a member of the MOD police who operate under the Ministry of Defence Police Act 1987. He holds the office of constable under the Crown, and acted under the direction of superintendent, head of the MDP fraud squad.

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what grounds *(a)* Mr. Chris Gumbley, *(b)* Mr. John Seilens, *(c)* Lieutenant Colonel Hollingsworth and *(d)* Mr. Miller of Astra plc were arrested by Ministry of Defence Police officers. [30108]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* All four were arrested on suspicion of corruption under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906.

Mr. John Anderson

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the treatment of Mr. John Anderson by the Ministry of Defence police and the resultant complaint to the Police Complaints Authority. [30107]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* Mr. Anderson was arrested by the Ministry of Defence police in April 1990. He was detained in connection with a possible case of corruption; he was interviewed and released without charge. Subsequently, he made a number of complaints concerning the circumstances of his arrest. These were investigated in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, and the report forwarded to the independent Police Complaints Authority. The PCA, having carefully studied the report, decided that no disciplinary action should be taken against the officers who were the subject of Mr. Anderson's complaints.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 10 July 1995

TREASURY

Firearms and Ammunition

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were *(a)* found to be illegally importing firearms and ammunition and *(b)* prosecuted for illegal importation of firearms and ammunition in each year since 1992. [33247]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: Customs and Excise does not hold central statistics on the number of people found to be illegally importing firearms and ammunition. The table shows, for 1992, 1993 and 1994, the number of detected irregularities in firearms importations; seized firearms; and resulting prosecutions. It is customs' policy to take offence action, either by prosecution or compound penalty, when there is sufficient evidence to show that those concerned were knowingly concerned in a fraudulent evasion of United Kingdom firearms and ammunition prohibitions and restrictions. In all other cases, action is restricted to seizure of the goods. As an alternative to criminal prosecution, the compound penalty procedure is used primarily in respect of non-commercial importations of CS gas canisters or undeclared firearms held for personal security reasons by visiting yachtsmen. These factors account for the low rate of prosecutions resulting from a large number of detections and seizures.

Year	*Detections*	*Firearms seized*	*Prosecutions*
1992	n/a	1,427	6
1993	276	8,674	4
1994	441	6,821	12

Single Currency

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the European Commission *(a)* has spent and *(b)* is proposing to spend on propagating its proposals for a single currency and on the green paper on the subject. [28077]

Mrs. Angela Knight: Line A-3501 of the European Community budget sets out expenditure on technical preparatory work for economic and monetary union. An element of the expenditure under line B3-306 is attributable to the provision of information on economic and monetary union, while an element of the expenditure under line B5-600 covers relevant statistical information. These figures do not include Commission staff and publication costs, which are not broken down by function in the budget. Copies of the European Community budget for years to 1995, and of the preliminary draft budget for 1996, are available in the House of Commons Library.

Banknotes

Mr. Beith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has proposed or considered arrangements under which banknotes would continue to be issued to Scottish and Northern Ireland banks under a single European currency. [30462]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: By the terms of the Maastricht treaty, provided the European Central bank was prepared to authorise them to do so, Scottish and Northern Ireland banks could continue to issue their own banknotes, though they would remain without legal tender status, as is currently the situation. Article 16 of the statute of the European system of central banks, a protocol to the Maastricht treaty, expressly provides that the European Central bank shall respect as far as possible existing practices regarding the issue and design of banknotes.

Employee Share Ownership

Mr. Keen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what statistics are held on employee share ownership plans established by companies over the last five years; how many companies and employees are covered by such plans; what is the level of control and ownership established by those plans; if he can give examples of plans establishing employee control of the running of their company; and if he will make a statement. [32426]

Mr. Jack: The law provides favourable tax treatment for employee share ownership trusts or plans—commonly known as ESOPs—which meet certain qualifying conditions set out in the legislation. In addition, "case law ESOPs"—as they are often called—which do not meet all the statutory requirements, may nevertheless qualify for one of the tax reliefs available to qualifying ESOPs, following principles established in case law. There is no requirement for qualifying ESOPs to be approved in advance by the Inland Revenue, so it is not possible to say how many have been established. Information about other arrangements which may be described as ESOPs is not held centrally. The other detailed information requested is not available.

Public Sector Borrowing Requirement

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the breakdown of the public sector borrowing requirement in the last fiscal year between central and local government. [32819]

Mr. Waldegrave: Central Government borrowing, on its own account, was £38.3 billion in 1994–95. Local authorities made a net payment of £1.1 billion and public corporations made a net repayment of £1.9 billion.

House Builders Federation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met the House Builders Federation; and when he next expects to meet it. [32816]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The Chancellor last met the president of the House Builders Federation on 22 September 1993. At present, the House Builders Federation has not requested a meeting this year.

Uncollected Tax

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what were the figures for uncollected tax in 1994 for *(a)* PAYE, *(b)* capital gains tax, *(c)* corporation tax, *(d)* schedule D and *(e)* VAT. [32828]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: The amount of value added tax written off or remitted in the year ended December 1994 was approximately £550 million. The information requested on PAYE, capital gains tax, corporation tax and schedule D tax is not yet available.

National Debt

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he estimates the national debt will reach £310 billion. [32826]

Mr. Waldegrave: Net public sector debt is forecast to reach £310 billion by the end of March 1996, about the cyclical peak of the GDP debt ratio.

Cheque Clearing

Sir David Steel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set a date for the implementation of the cheque clearing system as set out in the 1990 White Paper "Banking Services: Law and Practice", Cm 1026. [33143]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The Government have already said that they intend to introduce legislation as soon as an appropriate opportunity arises to allow the cheque clearing system described in the 1990 White Paper to be introduced. It is not possible to be more precise at the moment.

Charities (VAT)

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the amount of irrecoverable VAT paid by charities in the last year for which figures are available; and what proposals he has to compensate charities for lost revenue. [33022]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: No official figures of charities' irrecoverable VAT are kept. I am currently studying proposals for a compensation scheme recently submitted to me by the charities tax reform group.

Gilts and Bonds

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the taxation of gilts and bonds. [33978]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The Government have decided to proceed with the reform of the taxation of gilts and bonds outlined in the consultative document published by the Inland Revenue on 25 May 1995. However, these changes will not apply to the overwhelming majority of private investors.

These proposals will produce a simpler and more sensible tax regime, and will pave the way for market innovations which would help to ensure that the United Kingdom maintains and enhances its competitive position in world financial markets. The introduction of a strips market will be a further important step in the development of the gilt market, widening investor choice and helping to reduce funding costs.

At the same time, the Government intend to protect the interests of private investors. There will be a threshold, set at nominal holdings of £200,000, below which private investors will continue to pay tax on interest on the present basis. In addition, the Government have decided that the existing regime should continue to apply to two issues of low coupon gilts—3.5 per cent. 1999/04 and 5.5 per cent. 2008/12. These gilts are widely held by private investors. The Government have also decided that all non-equity shares—including zero-coupon preference shares—should be outside the new regime, although the position may be reviewed if serious distortions result. These decisions mean that probably fewer than 4,000 private investors—0.5 per cent. of the total—will be within the new regime. Many of those affected will on balance gain, rather than lose, from the reform.

There will be special rules to ensure that gilt and bond unit trusts are not disadvantaged, and that there is tax exemption for corporate bond Personal Equity Plans.

The element in the return on indexed gilts due to indexation of the principal repayment will remain tax free.

Many of those responding to the Inland Revenue's consultative document have expressed the wish for more time to discuss technical details with the Inland Revenue. At the same time, the Government are conscious of the difficulties which the markets and those having to make commercial decisions are facing because of uncertainty as to whether the reform will go ahead.

The Government have, therefore, decided to delay the start of the new regime until 1 April 1996 for companies, and until 6 April 1996 for the few private investors with holdings of over £200,000. In the meantime, the Inland Revenue will continue technical discussions with interested parties.

The Government have decided in principle to introduce an official gilt strips facility. It has also decided that gilts strippable through any such market should be exempt from withholding tax and the quarterly accounting arrangements to be introduced in connection with gilt repo. The introduction of a strips market will not take place before the second half of 1996. In the meantime, the Bank of England will be consulting further on the details.

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received to exclude zero dividend preference shares from the scope of the proposed changes to the taxation of gilts and bonds; and if he will make a statement; [33846]

(2) what assessment he has made of the extent to which private investors holding zero dividend preference shares will be affected by the proposed changes to the taxation of gilts and bonds; [33847]

(3) what steps he intends to take to avoid the potential for double taxation of gilts and bonds held by collective investment vehicles under the changes proposed to the treatment of these investments. [33845]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I refer to the answer my right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor is today giving to the hon. Member for Southport (Mr. Banks).

Oil Companies (Decommissioning)

Mr. Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information he has on the cost to the Exchequer of tax relief for decommissioning costs claimed by oil companies operating in the North sea in each financial year since 1985–86; [31226]

(2) what is the size of the adjustment in the forecasts of tax revenue published in the "Financial Statement and Budget Report 1995–96" to take account of relief claimed for decommissioning costs by oil companies operating in the North sea in 1995–96 and 1996–97 and any future years for which figures are available. [31227]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* The cost of decommissioning North sea oil installations is one of the costs of extracting oil in the North sea. As it is the profits of North sea oil companies that are taxed, it is right that tax relief should be given for relevant decommissioning costs.

There were no decommissioning costs in North sea oil and gas fields before 1991. From 1991–92 to 1996–97, deductions in tax revenues—royalties, petroleum revenue tax and corporation tax—average about £5 million per annum due to relief claimed for decommissioning costs. They are then expected to rise substantially.

Tax Relief

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue would be raised by limiting all tax relief to the basic rate of tax. [32531]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 5 July 1995]:* Based on a projection of the 1993–94 "Survey of Personal Incomes" and other survey data in line with assumptions in the summer economic forecast, the estimated full year yield at 1995–96 income levels would be about £890 million.

Bank of England, Leeds

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement about the long-term viability of the Bank of England branch in Leeds. [32545]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* This is a matter for the Bank of England. The Bank has recently completed a review of its branches and agencies. The Bank concluded that the economic liaison and representation work of its nine regional agents, including Leeds, had become increasingly important and should continue. It has, however, decided to cease branch banking operations and will discuss the branches' work on note distribution with the major clearing banks.

Alcohol Taxation

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the relative tax rules on spirits and other alcoholic drinks in relation to units of alcohol; and what assessment he makes of revenue maximisation in determining the level of duty imposed on spirits. [32954]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* Excise duties on all alcoholic drinks are levied at specific, rather than ad valorem, rates on the end product. Duty on spirits is levied according to the litres of pure alcohol content, whereas that on beer is charged per hectolitre per cent. alcohol by volume. Cider is also taxed per hectolitre but subject to a maximum strength of less than 8.5 per cent. alcohol by volume. Duty per hectolitre on wine varies according to the nature and strength of the product: five duty bands cover a range of strengths from 1.2 per cent. up to 22 per cent. alcohol by volume and differentiate between still, sparkling and fortified wines.

My right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer takes into consideration a wide range of social, economic and health factors as well as revenue considerations when setting the level of taxation on spirits.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Drugs Misuse

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what are the criteria which he applies to reschedule drug substances under the terms of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; how temazepam relates to these criteria; and if he will make a statement. [31393]

Mr. Maclean: No rescheduling may occur under the 1971 Act except after consultation with, or on the recommendation of, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs; and the council is required to have regard to misused drugs which are having, or appear to them capable of having, harmful effects sufficient to constitute a social problem. The council has recommended that temazepam should be controlled under schedule 3 of the relevant regulations rather than schedule 4, the effects of which would be as the then Minister of State described in his reply of 19 April to the hon. Member, *Official Report*, column *196*. The Government's careful consideration of this recommendation is continuing.

Following consultation with the Department of Health the Home Office is taking steps to impose safe custody requirements on manufacturers and wholesalers, and the Department of Health is engaged in consultations with interested parties with a view to banning NHS prescribing by general practitioners of the soft gelatin gel-filled capsules. These measures were announced by my right hon. Friend the Lord President of the Council on 10 May, *Official Report*, column *756*.

Racially Motivated Incidents

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racially motivated attacks are estimated to have taken place within the Greater London area in each of the last 12 months. [31699]

Mr. Maclean: The information requested has been provided by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and is contained in the table. The data supplied relate to the number of racially motivated incidents as per the Association of Chief Police Officers definition and excludes the City of London.

Racial incident figures: Metropolitan Police District
1 April 1994–31 March 1995

Month	*Number of racial incidents*
April 1994	478
May	443
June	509
July	557
August	558
September	517
October	454
November	461
December	384
January 1995	379
February	379
March	361
Total 1994–95	5,480

Association of Chief Police Officers definition: Any incident in which it appears to the reporting or investigative officer that the complaint involves an element of racial motive, or any incidents which include allegations of racial motivation made by any person.

Penile Plethysmograph Tests

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the accuracy of penile plethysmograph tests as predictions of behaviour; what are the guidelines for the use of such tests; and what assessment he has made of the consequences of taking such tests in terms of prisoners' assumptions about one another. [32247]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. George Howarth, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about what assessment has been made of the accuracy of penile plethysmograph (PPG) tests as predictions of behaviour; what are the guidelines for use of such tests; and what assessments has been made of the consequences of taking such tests in terms of prisoners' assumptions about one another.

The use of PPG by the Prison Service follows the guidelines published by the British Psychological Society and is only one element in the comprehensive assessment which forms part of the Prison Service's Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP). Its use is based on relevant research findings and advice from international experts. This research indicates that sadistic and paedophilic sexual preferences, shown up by the PPG, are common among convicted sex offenders and rare among unconvicted men. In addition, convicted sex offenders, who show these preferences to a more marked degree appear more likely to re-offend.

However, PPG assessment is not primarily used by the Prison Service to predict future behaviour. It is used with men who have already been identified as being at risk of committing sexual offences to assess one factor, sexual preferences, which may contribute to their offending.

Since the PPG is used as part of a comprehensive package of assessment and treatment, it is difficult to isolate this particular element from the effect of the SOTP as a whole. Research has shown, however, that by the end of the SOTP, when PPG assessment is included, participants typically:

accept responsibility for their offences rather than blaming other people.

are more aware of the damage and distress caused to victims.

are more aware of the factors which put them at risk of committing further offences.

have worked out ways of controlling these factors.

behave in a less aggressive and impulsive way in relation to prison staff and other prisoners.

are less emotional and angry.

A careful and rigorous evaluation of its effects on prisoners is built into the SOTP. The programme is periodically revised in the light of evaluation results.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the approximate start-up cost of the two proposed young offender institutions in England and Wales. [32433]

(2) what are the approximate costings of running experimental young offender institutions in England and Wales. [32435]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. George Howarth, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Questions about the approximate start-up cost of the two proposed young offender institutions and the approximate costings of running experimental young offender institutions in England and Wales.

The Prison Service is currently working on proposals for two new types of regime for young offenders. Information about the projected costs of these ventures cannot be given until the proposals have been approved and an announcement made.

There are no young offender institutions being run on an experimental basis in England and Wales at present.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his Department, their purpose and their cost. [32482]

Mr. Howard: Expenditure on advertising by my Department for each year since 1979 is as follows:

1979–80:	£2,904,671
1980–81:	£1,649,605
1981–82:	£1,834,476
1982–83:	£1,957,304
1983–84:	£2,760,681
1984–85:	£3,262,700
1985–86:	£3,306,391
1986–87:	£5,000,000
1987–88:	£4,700,000
1988–89:	£5,400,000
1989–90:	£5,500,000
1990–91:	£5,728,000
1991–92:	£7,275,940
1992–93:	£7,344,635
1993–94:	£9,090,222
1994–95:	£10,912,000

These figures include the 1.75 per cent. commission charged by the Central Office of Information for services associated with centralised purchasing.

The specific campaigns undertaken between 1990–91 and 1994–95 were as follows:

	£
1990–91	
Crime Prevention	
To encourage more widespread crime prevention.	2,890,309
Electoral Registration	
To encourage un-registered but otherwise eligible citizens to register to vote.	468,419
Fire Service Recruitment	
To recruit retained fire fighters.	22,387
Special Constabulary	
To stimulate increased applications to join the Special Constabulary.	1,176,645
Fire Safety	
To encourage wider ownership, installation and maintenance of smoke alarms in domestic premises.	1,165,831
Miscellaneous Campaigns	
A range of small campaigns such as Police Graduate Recruitment and advice about Magistrates' Courts.	4,409
1991–92	
Crime Prevention	3,637,514
Dangerous Dogs Legislation	
To inform owners of dogs included in legislation of action they must take to comply with that legislation.	262,719
Electoral Registration	627,336
Absent Voting	
To advise eligible voters of absent voting rights	512,062
Fire Service Recruitment	25,773
Special Constabulary	954,705
Fire Safety	1,244,000
Miscellaneous Campaigns	11,831
1992–93	
Crime Prevention	3,826,280
Electoral Registration	620,000
Special Constabulary	1,357,133
Fire Safety	1,534,522
Miscellaneous Campaigns	6,700
1993–94	
Crime Prevention	4,984,722
Elections	620,000
Special Constabulary	1,459,000
Fire Prevention	2,020,000
Miscellaneous Campaigns	6,500
1994–95	
Partners Against Crime	
To encourage crime prevention and greater public co-operation with the police through Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch and Neighbourhood Special Constables schemes.	6,675,313
Electoral Registration	650,000
Fire Safety recruitment	30,094
Fire Safety	757,428
Special Constabulary	2,799,165
Campaigns planned for 1995–96 are as follows:	
Partners Against Crime	
Electoral Registration	
Fire Safety	
Special Constabulary	

This work is still being developed and it is not yet possible to give a precise budget for each campaign. The forecast total spend for advertising in the current financial year is £7,300,000.

A breakdown by campaign subjects in the years before 1990–91 could be provided only at disproportionate cost to public funds. However, the subjects listed for the past five years are broadly the same as those covered in previous years.

Cannabis

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to allow experiments into the use of cannabis for medical purposes. [32493]

Mr. Maclean: The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 makes specific provision for research relating to otherwise illegal drugs, such as cannabis, to be undertaken under licence. Some licences for research into cannabis are already in existence; any future applications for licences will be carefully considered as and when they are received.

Police Cautions

Mr. Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the percentage of persons cautioned for indictable, excluding motoring, offences as a percentage of persons found guilty or cautioned for each police force area in 1994. [32633]

Mr. Maclean: The latest available figures, which are for 1993, are published in table 5.4 of "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 1993". The 1994 figures will be available in autumn 1995.

Victims Helpline

Mr. Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has been the total cost of the victims helpline since its establishment; and what number of telephone calls have been received. [32634]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Jack Straw, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent question about the victim helpline.

From its commencement on 5 December 1994 to 4 July this year, the Helpline had received 192 calls. The total cost over the same period is estimated to be in the region of £23,000 including the start up costs of £8,400.

Police Cells

Mr. Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the total cost of keeping prisoners in police cells in 1994. [32636]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Jack Straw, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the total cost of keeping prisoners in police cells in 1994.

The total cost for 1994 was £14,780,000.

Correspondence

Mr. Robert Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the hon. Member for Coventry, North-East will receive a reply to his letter to the Minister of State for the Home Department, the right hon. Member for Penrith and The Border (Mr. Maclean), of 8 June. [32638]

Mr. Maclean: I wrote to the hon. Member on 5 July.

Drugs (Prisons)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the fines and penalties imposed on prison inmates for being in possession of drugs at each prison in England and Wales during the months of March, April and May. [32673]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the fines and penalties imposed on prison inmates for being in possession of drugs during the months of March, April and May.

Provisional figures for the number of offences and the number of punishments awarded for possession of a controlled drug are shown in the attached table, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House, for each Prison Service establishment where it was proved that an offence was committed.

Offences[1] and punishments[2] for possession of a controlled drug, Prison Service establishment, England and Wales, March–May 1995 (provisional figures)

	Number of proved offences	*Confined to cell/room*	*Removal from activities*	*Forfeiture of privileges*	*Stoppage or reduction of earnings*	*Caution*	*Removal from wing or living unit*	*Extra work*	*Additional days awarded*	*Exclusion from associated work*	*All punishments*
All Establishments	906	86	3	325	317	14	9	26	845	23	1,648
Aylesbury	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bedford	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Birmingham	25	1	—	21	7	—	—	—	25	—	54
Brinsford	17	—	—	16	8	1	—	1	12	—	38
Bristol	37	1	—	1	5	—	—	—	32	—	39
Brixton	22	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	20	2	29
Canterbury	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Castington	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	4
Coldingley	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dartmoor	31	4	—	2	6	1	—	—	29	4	46
Dorchester	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dover	4	1	—	3	1	—	1	1	4	—	11
Elmley	24	2	—	6	1	—	—	—	22	—	31
Erlestoke	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	10	—	11
Exeter	14	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	12	—	18
Feltham	91	7	—	62	60	3	—	2	87	—	221
Ford	21	—	—	—	6	2	—	—	21	—	29
Gartree	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Glen Parva	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	6
Gloucester	9	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	8	—	12
Guys Marsh	27	2	—	3	3	1	—	—	26	—	35
Hatfield	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Hewell Grange	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Highpoint	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	7
Hindley	17	1	—	14	12	—	—	—	16	—	43
Holme House	11	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	11	1	18
Hull	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Kirkham	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Lancaster Farms	25	1	—	10	7	—	1	—	25	—	44
Leicester	25	2	—	2	9	1	—	—	22	—	36
Leyhill	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
Lincoln	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Lindholme	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Liverpool	49	—	—	14	19	1	—	—	48	1	83
Manchester	40	28	—	25	8	—	—	—	37	—	98
Moorland	34	5	—	16	12	—	—	—	34	—	67
Morton Hall	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
New Hall	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4
Northallerton	33	5	—	19	28	—	—	—	33	—	85
Onley	24	—	3	13	20	—	4	—	23	—	63
Parkhurst	7	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	5	1	9
Pentonville	59	2	—	15	6	—	—	—	57	—	80
Portland	11	5	—	5	—	—	1	—	10	—	21

Offences[1] and punishments[2] for possession of a controlled drug, Prison Service establishment, England and Wales, March–May 1995 (provisional figures)

	Number of proved offences	Confined to cell/room	Removal from activities	Forfeiture of privileges	Stoppage or reduction of earnings	Caution	Removal from wing or living unit	Extra work	Additional days awarded	Exclusion from associated work	All punishments
Preston	3	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	3	—	8
Reading	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Risley	24	5	—	6	6	—	—	—	23	—	40
Send	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Shrewsbury	10	1	—	7	—	—	—	—	9	1	18
Stafford	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Stoke Heath	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	15
Styal	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Swaleside	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Swinfen Hall	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Thorn Cross	40	1	—	1	28	—	2	22	41	—	95
Usk/Prescoed	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Wakefield	24	—	—	17	24	—	—	—	12	7	60
Wandsworth	36	6	—	26	13	—	—	—	35	5	85
Wayland	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	—	8
Wetherby	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	6
Winchester	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Wolds	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Wormwood Scrubs	21	—	—	3	7	1	—	—	13	—	24
Wymott	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	5

[1] Including incite or assist the possession of controlled drugs.
[2] The number of offences punished and the number of punishments awarded may not agree, it being the practice in some cases to award concurrently several forms of punishment for one offence.

Wheelclamping

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to introduce proposals on wheelclamping on private land. [32822]

Mr. Maclean: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to his question on 20 April, *Official Report*, column *268*.

Prisoner Escapes

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of States for the Home Department how many prisoner escapes from *(a)* establishments and *(b)* escorts there were in 1994–95 in (i) London and (ii) England and Wales. [32537]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from A. J. Pearson to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me, in the absence of the Director General from the office, to reply to your recent Question about the number of prisoner escapes from (a) establishments and (b) escorts in 1994/95 in (i) London and (ii) England and Wales.

The information for the period 1 April 1994 to 31 March this year is shown in the attached tables.

London

Escapes from prison	Escapes from escort	Sub total	Escapes from court escort services (previously a police responsibility)	Total
5	4	9	2	11

England and Wales[1]

Escapes from prison	Escapes from escort	Sub total	Escapes from court escort service (previously a police responsibility)	Total
151	51	202	15	217

Figures exclude prisoners recaptured within 15 minutes provided that no further offence has been committed.
[1] Figures for England and Wales include those for London.

Prisoners (Visits by Lawyers)

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he plans to take to remedy the shortage of prison officers supervising visits to prisoners by lawyers. [32541]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about visits to prisoners by lawyers.

There is no general shortage of prison officers to supervise visits to prisoners by lawyers. Accommodation may sometimes become over-stretched and result in difficulty in agreeing to visits at short notice. Many prisons find that the best service can be offered by operating a booking system.

Criminal Injury Compensation

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what date he intends to backdate the option of structured settlements for victims who are awarded large sums of criminal injury compensation under the existing scheme administered by the Criminal Injury Compensation Board; and whether the qualifying date will be *(a)* the date of injury, *(b)* the date of

application for compensation or *(c)* the date of award. [33103]

Mr. Maclean: As indicated in a Commons Committee, 27 June, *Official Report*, column *236*, before applicants under the 1990 scheme, or an earlier scheme, can benefit from structured settlements it will be necessary, first, to amend the 1990 scheme to allow payment to be made by the purchase of annuities and, secondly, to make statutory provision to ensure that income from such annuities is exempt from income tax. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill which is currently being considered in another place provides an appropriate vehicle for this.

It will not be possible to offer structured settlements to victims whose claims have already been settled. But once the 1990 scheme has been amended and the statutory provision has been enacted, victims whose claims have not then been finally settled will, in all appropriate cases, be offered the option of payment by structured settlement.

EDS

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the contracts his Department has with the computer company EDS. [33169]

Mr. Howard: My Department has one contract, originally set up with the Inland Revenue, with EDS. It relates to the supply of microfiche for the Home Office pay service, the annual value of which varies according to the number of copies produced. The contract value for the period July 1994 to March 1995 was £20,000, excluding VAT.

Inquests

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers a coroner has to ensure he sees all papers and documents relating to a death before him, and that all such papers and documents are placed before the relevant inquest. [31479]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: A coroner has no power to order the production of papers and documents which might be likely to afford assistance in his inquiry, but he can, where he considers it necessary to do so, compel such production by means of a Crown Office subpoena. The decision as to which papers and documents should be put in evidence at an inquest is a matter for the coroner.

Probation Officers

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement about his future plans for probation officer recruitment and training. [32848]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: My right hon. and learned Friend will make an announcement when he has completed his consideration of the responses to the consultative proposals which he published earlier this year.

Prisoners (Drug Tests)

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if tests on prisoners to check for illegal drug use will include checks simultaneously for cannabis, heroin and cocaine; [32749]

(2) what evidence he has of prisoners changing from cannabis use to heroin use to avoid detection in present drugs surveillance tests; [32750]

(3) what is his calculation of the length of time residues of *(a)* alcohol, *(b)* cannabis, *(c)* heroin and *(d)* cocaine can be detected in the human body. [32751]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for these matters has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Paul Flynn, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Questions about the drug testing programme in prisons.

All mandatory drug tests include simultaneous checks for cannabis, heroin and cocaine.

There is no evidence from the initial phase of implementation of mandatory drug testing that prisoners are changing from cannabis to heroin use to avoid detection. We are aware that heavy users of cannabis may retain the drug in their bodies for longer than light users of cannabis or users of harder drugs such as heroin. This has been taken into account in the development of the drug testing policy and we are taking a number of precautions to ensure that prisoners are not encouraged to move from cannabis to harder drugs in the mistaken belief that they are more likely to escape detection.

The period over which residues of different drugs remain detectable within the body depends not only on the drug type, but also on the metabolism and physical make-up of the individual and the frequency of and amount of drug taken. The detection period will also depend on the detection threshold set for the particular test.

The attached table provides estimates on drug retention. The figures are based on the period of time that a drug remains detectable when a urine sample is used as the basis for the drug test.

Drug type	*Typical maximum detection period*
Alcohol[1]	12 to 24 hours
Cocaine	2 to 4 days
Cannabis[2]	
Single use (once a week)	1 to 4 days
Moderate use (2 to 4 times a week)	2 to 7 days
Heavy use (daily use)	7 to 14 days
Chronic use (extreme daily use)	up to 30 days
Opiates (including heroin)	2 to 4 days

[1] Tests for alcohol are not part of the Prison Service mandatory drug testing programme which covers controlled drugs only.

[2] The retention of cannabis in the body is highly dependent on the amount of the drug taken and the frequency of use; far more so than for other drug-types. For this reason a number of different "typical" scenarios have been provided in the table.

Mr. Barry Gray

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he plans to take following the release of Barry Gray by Securicor guards after being given a prison sentence at Southwark Crown court. [32534]

Miss Widdecombe *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the release from custody of Mr. Barry Gray.

A full enquiry by a senor governor is currently being conducted into all the circumstances surrounding Mr. Gray's release at Southwark Crown court on 19 June. Once this has been completed we will consider what further action, if any, needs to be taken.

Prison Escorts

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are currently employed on prison escort work by Securicor in London. [32539]

Miss Widdecombe *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 10 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the number of staff employed by Securicor Custodial Services Limited.

857 staff were employed by Securicor on prisoner escort work in London at the end of June 1995.

PRIME MINISTER

Judicial Appointments

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions in the last 10 years he has declined to pass on to Her Majesty recommendations from the Lord Chancellor's Department in respect of senior appointments. [32861]

The Prime Minister: It is on the basis of the Lord Chancellor's advice that I make recommendations to Her Majesty the Queen for appointments to the senior judiciary, but the advice from the Lord Chancellor in respect of these appointments is a confidential matter, as is the use I make of it.

Bank of England

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Prime Minister in which periods since 1965 there has been a trade union leader as a member of the court of the Bank of England; what plans he has to appoint a successor to Sir Gavin Laird; and if he will make a statement. [33273]

The Prime Minister: The following trade union leaders have been directors of the Bank of England since 1965; Sir William Carron, 1963 to 1969; Sir Sidney Greene, 1970 to 1978; Mr. Geoffrey Drain, 1978 to 1986; Sir Gavin Laird, 1986 to 1994. Members of the court are not appointed to represent particular institutions or organisations. The aim is always to appoint the best people to advise the Governor and other executive directors of the bank.

Former Prisoners of War

Mr. Madden: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has made to the Japanese Government since his visit to Japan in 1993 about examining whether non-governmental measures would assist in the provision of compensation for British prisoners of war; and if he will make a statement. [33292]

The Prime Minister: I have been in contact with successive Japanese Prime Ministers about these matters, including my present counterpart, Mr. Murayama. Although our proposal for a non-governmental foundation did not prove to be feasible, we are pursuing our discussions with the Japanese Government about other possible approaches. Those efforts will continue.

Air Strikes (Bosnia)

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister what consideration led to the decision not to carry out air strikes to protect the UN designated safe areas including the capital of Bosnia; what agreement has been reached with the Serbians regarding air strikes and the release of UN forces; and if he will make a statement. [33114]

The Prime Minister: As I told the House on 28 June, *Official Report*, column 905, we certainly made no deals with the Bosnian Serbs over the release of the hostages. The UN and other Governments have stated clearly that they made no deals either. Air power remains an important option available to the commanders on the ground for protecting UN forces and enforcing relevant UN resolutions.

Ministerial Advisers

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister what part was played in the Conservative party leadership contest by advisers to Ministers; what were the official positions of such advisers; and if he will make a statement. [32838]

Special Advisers

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Prime Minister what part *(a)* Gregor Mackay, *(b)* Sophie McEwen, *(c)* Rachel Whetstone and *(d)* Tim Collins have played as civil servants in the current Conservative party leadership campaign; and what restrictions apply to civil servants in these circumstances. [32839]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* The officials named are special advisers. Special advisers may take part in political activities of the sort described provided they do so during leave or in their own time in addition to fulfilling their normal duties.

Ministerial Speeches

Mr. Barnes: To ask the Prime Minister, pursuant to his answer of 26 June, *Official Report*, columns *445–46*, if he will list all publications, published by Government Departments at public expense, which contain a collection of a Minister's speeches, in the format recently produced by the Department of Transport—"Transport, the Way Ahead". [32110]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer 5 July 1995]:* "Transport: The Way Ahead" was published by the Secretary of State as a consultation document. It includes a series of six speeches by my right hon. Friend which address central issues of transport policy on which views are invited.

I am aware of two other recent departmental publications which include collections of ministerial speeches: "Progress through Partnership", published by the Department of Health in February 1995, includes four speeches by the Secretary of State for Health. "Purchasing for Health: A Framework for Action", published by the Department of Health in June 1993, includes three speeches by the right hon. Member for Peterborough (Dr. Mawhinney) as Minister of State together with one by the chief executive of the national health services.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Morocco

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Morocco's expressed intention to extend registration for the proposed referendum in Western Sahara to an additional 100,000 people. [33266]

Mr. Hanley: The additional applications in question were submitted by the Moroccans last October, before the deadline for multiple application. The Security Council has endorsed a proposal by a recent mission to the Western Sahara by some of its members that the Moroccans should conduct a preliminary vetting of the 100,000. Our ambassador in Rabat has raised the matter with the Moroccan Prime Minister.

Access to Information

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures have been taken in accordance with the declaration on the right of access to information within the treaty on European Union by *(a)* the Commission and *(b)* the British Government. [33140]

Mr. David Davis: We have played a leading role in developing access to information in the Community. Following the Birmingham declaration an openness in October 1992, the Council and the Commission jointly agreed a code of conduct on public access to documents, which is now in operation. A number of Council debates have been televised. Council debates are preceded by comprehensive press briefing and followed by press releases giving details of votes on legislative acts. These press releases are made available to Parliament.

Since the Maastricht declaration on the right of access to information the Government have extended their own procedures to take account of the creation of the European Union, and notably the new intergovernmental pillars. Key documents are deposited in Parliament. For legislative proposals, explanatory memoranda are made available to the public through libraries and information centres.

Arms Exports

Ms Quin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions there have been in the EU Council of Ministers on the criteria governing arms exports agreed in June 1991 and supplemented in June 1992. [32407]

Mr. David Davis: None. However, all member states of the European Union adhere to the existing criteria when considering potential arms exports.

Ms Quin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions there have been on arms exports within the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. [32408]

Mr. Davis: The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe held a seminar in Vienna on 20 and 21 June to exchange information amongst OSCE participating states about national procedures and policies governing arms exports.

On the first day the seminar discussed export law, control lists, licences and enforcement practices and procedures. On the second day the seminar discussed increased transparency, improved international co-operation and combating illegal convention arms transfers.

Mr Jamal Akkas Chowdhury

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the United Kingdom post in Doha Qatar intends to despatch the explanatory statement explaining why Mr. Jamal Akkas Chowdhury, ref. DOH/826/94/R, was refused entry clearance to join his wife in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [33293]

Mr. Hanley: I have asked the embassy at Doha for details and will arrange for the hon. Member to receive a substantive reply from the migration and visa correspondence unit as soon as possible.

Nuclear Weapons Tests

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential environmental effects of French nuclear weapons tests at Mururoa upon the British dependent territory of Pitcairn; and whether the French Government have provided Her Majesty's Government with any assessment of the environmental consequences of its nuclear testing programme at Mururoa and Fangataufa in French Polynesia since 1966 upon British dependent territories in the Pacific. [33480]

Mr. David Davis: President Chirac has given an assurance that the planned tests will not cause any harm to the environment. He also issued an invitation to experts to visit the area to verify this for themselves. The French Government have made it clear that all the tests will take place underground. We are not in a position to conduct an independent assessment; the French Government have not provided the United Kingdom with environmental impact assessments of their previous tests in the south Pacific.

Mr. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requirements exist for European Union member state countries to inform (i) the Council, (ii) the Commission and (iii) Euratom over plans to conduct nuclear tests in the territories of the European Union or overseas dependent territories of the Union; and what such notifications have been made in the last year. [32887]

Mr. Davis *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* There is no requirement under the treaty on European Union or the Community treaties—including the Euratom treaty—for a member state to give notification of plans to carry out nuclear weapons tests. A member state could if it wished give such notification in the context of the common foreign and security policy. None has been given in recent years.

Wilton Park

Mr. Elletson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the Wilton Park executive agency performed against the targets which were agreed for 1994–95; and if targets have yet been agreed for the current year. [33656]

Mr. Hanley: According to provisional figures which are subject to full audit, Wilton Park exceeded all four of the agreed targets set for 1994–95 financial year, for the number of conference participants, income, cost recovery and cost per head to the FCO overall.

The Wilton Park departmental board met in April. We have agreed to the recommendation of the board that the following key targets be adopted for this financial year:

To increase overall income from £1,157K in 1994–95 to £1,203,000K;

To increase cost recovery from 78.2 per cent. in 1994–95 to 80.3 per cent.

To increase the target for the overall number of Wilton Park conference participants from 1,260 in 1994–95 to 1,350;

To reduce the average cost to the FCO of each participant from £237 in 1994–95 to £219;

It has also been agreed that from 1995–96 Wilton Park will aim to recover 73 per cent. of the cost of Wilton Park conferences—1994–95: 64 per cent.

Government Papers

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of the review of previously withheld papers for which he is responsible. [33903]

Mr. Rifkind: Since the review was announced in 1992, some 5,500 previously withheld papers have been released into the public domain. These represent some 80 per cent. of the total reviewed, and have included material on Rudolf Hess, the Russia Committee, the Special Operations Executive, SOE, Suez, the Cuban missile crisis and the Malayan emergency. A first tranche of papers relating to the information research department of the Foreign Office is about to be released.

EU Council

Mr. Dicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on forthcoming business in the Council of the European Union. [33657]

Mr. David Davis: The following is the information:

MONTHLY FORECAST OF BUSINESS FOR JULY 1995

The following meetings are planned:

July 10: ECOFIN

July 17/18: Foreign Affairs Council

Agriculture Council

July 24: Budget Council

The following subjects are likely to be discussed:

July 10: ECOFIN

Cannes follow-up, probably:

TENS

Employment

EMU Green Paper

Broad economic guidelines (possible adoption following Cannes discussion)

Recommendations to member states with excessive deficits

Harmonised consumer price indices (agreement of Regulation as an "A" or "false B" point)

Excise duty review (Presentation of expected Commission report by Commissioner Monti)

Possible items include:

Macrofinancial assistance to Georgia and Armenia

Cross border payments directive (political agreement)

VAT (agreement in principle on reduced rate for cut flowers, with pressure from some member states to broaden scope to other agricultural non-food products)

July 17/18: Agriculture Council

Bananas (possible)

Wine (possible)

Nectarine and peach grubbing scheme

July 17/18: Foreign Affairs Council

Agenda not yet available

July 24: Budget Council

First reading of draft 1996 Community Budget

Commission financial management (possible)

Queen's Messenger Service

Mr. Barry Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to end the Queen's messenger service. [30894]

Mr. Goodlad: None.

East European Students

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what bursaries to English universities his Department is sponsoring from new eastern European democracies, at what cost to public funds; and if he will make a statement. [31156]

Mr. Baldry: In 1994–95 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided over 500 scholarships and awards to enable students from eastern and central Europe to come to study at universities and other academic institutions in the United Kingdom, at a cost of approximately £2.6 million.

TRANSPORT

Cycle Parking

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the buildings occupied by his Department which have provisions for the parking of cycles. [31829]

Mr. Norris: Copies of the list of DOT buildings with cycle provision will be placed in the House Library in due course.

BR Research

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if BR Research will own as a private company intellectual property rights in innovations in railway technology developed by BR Research while in the public sector; if it will also carry liabilities resulting from litigation over any failures of such technological developments; and what compensation will be paid to other sections of British Rail which formerly had access to the use of such developments without payment of a licence fee. [32685]

Mr. Watts: The detailed terms of the disposal of BR Research, due to be agreed by the end of this financial year, will be a matter for the British Railways Board.

Catford Road Scheme

Mr. Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list all the properties that have been acquired so far in connection with the A205–A21 Catford town centre road scheme, with the owners of those responsible for their management pending the start of the work, and any land or properties that still need to be purchased. [32675]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for the Highways Agency.

I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lawrie Haynes to Mr. Jim Dowd, dated 10 July 1995:

As you know, the Minister for Transport in London, Mr Steven Norris, has asked me to write to you about the question you asked in the House seeking information on the properties required for the improvement of the South Circular Road in Catford Town Centre.

I enclose, as you requested, lists showing:

(a) the properties already purchased in connection with the scheme and in the ownership of the Secretary of State with occupiers where appropriate and,

(b) those yet to be acquired, with owners and occupiers.

A205 Catford Town Centre Improvement Properties yet to be acquired in connection with the scheme

Property or part thereof	*Owner or reputed owner*	*Occupant*
Part of vault and car stand at the 'Copperfield' P.H. Catford Road	Courage (Eastern) Ltd., Anchor Brewhouse, Horselydown SE1 2LL	—

A205 Catford Town Centre Improvement Properties yet to be acquired in connection with the scheme

Property or part thereof	*Owner or reputed owner*	*Occupant*
Part of public car park accessways and half width of Canadian Avenue at the Public car park, Canadian Avenue	The London Borough of Lewisham, Town Hall, Catford SE6 4RU	London & Provincial Posters Ltd, 78-86 Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey. London Electricity Board, Templar House, 81-87 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NU
Part of front garden accessways to 6 Bromley Road	Mrs. Betty Irene Gillett, 17 Kingswood Avenue, Shortlands, Bromley, Kent BR2 0NT	Albert Jones, Frank Seymour, Joseph Angel, Richard Turnall
14 Plassy Road	The London Borough of Lewisham	—
10 Brownhill Road	National Bus Properties Ltd.	Aubyn Graham, 55 Henlowe Road, SE22 and Lee Laing and Neville McGee both of 494 New Cross Road, SE14
Forecourt of 8 Brownhill Road	Mrs. Mary Scott-Smith and Miss Joan Scott-Smith both of 27 Culverley Road, Catford SE6 2LD	Howard Nicholas Brennan
Forecourt of 6 Brownhill Road	Urbandale Investments Ltd., 42 Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent	Tonros Heating Ltd., 42 Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
Forecourt & Vault of 147-149 (odd) Rushey Green	Mrs. Phylis Audrey Griffiths, Brandon Lodge, Church Road, Lyminge, Folkestone, Kent	Midland Bank Plc, 27-32 Poultry, London EC1P 2BX
Forecourt of 151 Rushey Green	Simon George Symeou and Mrs. Eleni Symeou both of 9 Newquay Road, Catford SE6	—
Forecourt of 153 Rushey Green	Donovan Rupert, Horace Levette and James Clarke	David T. Atkin, 292 Sangley Road, Catford SE6 4JT
Forecourt of 155 Rushey Green	National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP	—
Forecourt of 157-159 (odd) Rushey Green	National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP	—
Forecourt, vaults and accessway at 'The Black Horse' PH (167-169) (odd) Rushey Green)	Allied Breweries Ltd., 107 Station Street, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire	Ijaz Ahmed, Choudhri AOT, Leisure Ltd., 19-21 Sylvan Grove, London SE15 1PG

A205 Catford Town Centre Improvement Properties yet to be acquired in connection with the scheme

Property or part thereof	*Owner or reputed owner*	*Occupant*
Part of accessway to 175 Rushey Green	National Travel (London) Ltd., 175 Rushey Green, Catford SE6	—
Electricity sub-station adjoining, 19 Sangley Road	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	London Electricity Board
105 sq mtrs part of forecourt, posts, vault and accessway to 6-12 (even) Sangley Road	Finaware Ltd., 9 Henniker Mews, London SW3	—
Forecourt and vaults of ABC Cinema Bromley Road	Associated British Picture Corp Ltd., 30-31 Golden Square, London W1	—
Forecourt and vaults of 3 Bromley Road	Robert J. Lang Ltd., 6 Wellington Street, London SE18 6PE	Jack Rochford Copeland, Richard James Pearson and John Ernest Sage
Forecourt and vault of 5 Bromley Road	Nombane Ltd., 116 High Street, Godalming, Surrey	Gino Vincendo Plado, 28 Hazelwood Road, Chudham, Kent, Barry Christopher Martin, 16 Wegall Road, Lee SE12 and David Thomas Warnock, 27 Dunstable Court, St. John's Park, London SE3
Forecourt and vault of 7 Bromley Road	Nombane Ltd., 116 High Street, Godalming, Surrey	John Faragher, 66 Coleridge Road, Ashburton Estate, Croydon, Surrey
Forecourt and vault of 9 Bromley Road	Nombane Ltd., 116 High Street, Godalming, Surrey	Steven John Coleman, 132 Dowanhill Road, Catford, SE6
Forecourt, vaults of and part of accessway to 11-13 (odd) Bromley Road	Sydney Yearing, 44 Sandford Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 9AW	Transave Ltd., 11-13 Bromley Road, Catford SE6 2TS
Advertisement hoardings and forecourt on part sites of 21-21a-23, Bromley Road.	Brewster Estates Ltd., 40 Chastilian Road, Dartford, Kent	View Point, Advertisements Ltd., 47 Chaple Street, London NW1

A205 Catford Town Centre Improvements Properties acquired in connection with the scheme

Property or part thereof	*Lessees*
Owned by Secretary of State for Transport	
10, 12 (rear only) and 14 Brownhill Road	LB Lewisham Cong. of Jehovah's Witnesses Vacant
12 Brownhill Road 1st Floor Hall	
16-22 Brownhill Road Ground Floor, 16 Brownhill Road	
18-22 Brownhill Road	Lewisham Old Peoples Welfare Association
24 Brownhill Road	Hyde Housing Association
26 Brownhill Road	CHISEL
30A Brownhill Road	Vacant
30 Brownhill Road	Vacant

A205 Catford Town Centre Improvements Properties acquired in connection with the scheme

Property or part thereof	*Lessees*
Part of front garden, 366 Brownhill Road	Vacant
Part of front gardens, 347/355 Brownhill Road	Vacant
St. Mildred's sports ground Canadian Avenue	Vacant
Telephone Exchange, Canadian Avenue	Vacant
Land between Canadian Avenue, Bromley	Vacant
1 Engleheart Road	Vacant
3 Engleheart Road	Vacant
Land between London Road/Dartmouth Road	Vacant
2 Plassy Road	Hyde Housing Association
4 Plassy Road	Hyde Housing Association
6 Plassy Road	Hyde Housing Association
8 Plassy Road	Vacant
10 Plassy Road	Vacant
12 Plassy Road	Lewisham Family Self Help Association
16 Plassy Road	London and Quadrant Housing Association
18 Plassy Road	Vacant
20 Plassy Road	London and Quadrant Housing Association
22 Plassy Road	Private
24 Plassy Road	Private
26 Plassy Road	CHISEL
28 Plassy Road	Vacant
30 Plassy Road	Hyde Housing Association
32 Plassy Road	Vacant
34 Plassy Road	London and Quadrant Housing Association
36 Plassy Road	Vacant
201 Rushey Green	Combined (Comfort) Force Trust
203 Rushey Green	Vacant
205 Rushey Green	Vacant
1-3 Sangley Road	Vacant
1B Sangley Road	Mr. Clements
1A Sangley Road	Vacant
Land at rear of 1-19 Sangley Road	Vacant
5 Sangley Road	Vacant
7 Sangley Road	Vacant
9 Sangley Road	Mr. Clements
11 Sangley Road	Vacant
13 Sangley Road	Vacant
15 Sangley Road	Vacant
17 Sangley Road	Vacant
19 Sangley Road	Vacant
112-114 St. Mildred's Road	Vacant

Thames Strategy

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what progress has been made to increase the movement of goods by water rather than road as advocated by the Government office for London's document on Thames strategy; [32679]

(2) what steps have been taken to encourage the use of the Thames for commercial river-borne traffic on the lines of the Government office for London's document on Thames strategy. [32678]

Mr. Norris: The report of the River Thames working group, which I chaired and which published its report last December, identified the potential for maximising the use of the Thames for commercial transport. I have

subsequently held a number of meetings with operators and potential operators on the Thames to discuss the scope for expanding freight and passenger services. This process will continue.

The River Thames working group report has stimulated wider interest in transport on the river. The Thames strategy report and the Thames gateway planning framework, both published this year by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment, recognise the benefits of maximising the Thames for commercial traffic and the need to safeguard essential river-related infrastructure.

Financial assistance, in the form of freight facilities grant, is also available to operators to encourage the movement of goods by water or rail rather than by road.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many properties have been purchased in connection with the development of the channel tunnel rail link; and what has been the total cost of these purchases. [32857]

Mr. Watts: Two hundred and forty properties at a total cost of £42.6 million, including home loss and disturbance payments where appropriate, have been acquired by Union Railways Ltd. for the present channel tunnel rail link project.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if the successful bidders for the construction of the channel tunnel rail link put in tenders which included the channel tunnel rail link with and without *(a)* a station at Stratford and *(b)* a long box at Stratford. [33243]

Mr. Watts: It was a requirement of the CTRL competition that bidders should submit a reference specification bid and a number of required alternative bids. The reference bid included only the short box at Stratford needed to accommodate a cross-over and to permit construction of a connection to the possible servicing and maintenance facilities at Temple Mills. The required alternative bids covered both an international only and a combined international and domestic station at Stratford, both of which require construction of a long box.

New Vehicles

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of current vehicles in the United Kingdom are new cars built since 1993. [32870]

Mr. Norris: The most recent available information is for licensed stock at the end of 1994. It is estimated that, to the nearest half per cent., 13.5 per cent. of current vehicles are new cars built since the beginning of 1993, 10.5 per cent. are petrol driven new cars built since the beginning of 1993.

Municipal Bus Companies

Mr. David Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is his current policy towards the divesting of former municipal bus companies by local authorities; what factors have led to changes in policy; and if he will make a statement. [32943]

Mr. Norris: There has been no change in our policy towards these companies: we are keen to see them move into the private sector.

Vehicle Harmonisation Directive

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on developments in negotiations on the draft vehicle harmonisation directive. [32811]

Mr. Norris: An expert working group chaired by the European Commission is currently considering the extension of the whole vehicle type approval framework directive 70/156/EEC, as amended by directive 92/53/EEC, to categories of vehicle other than cars. No target has been set for the adoption of amending proposals.

Road Pricing

Mr. Jon Owen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to publish the full report on the feasibility of road pricing in London; and what the cost of that study is to date. [32734]

Mr. Norris: A full report on London research will be published as soon as practicable. To date the study has cost approximately £2.7 million.

Catalytic Converters

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what tests have been carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory on the efficacy of catalytic converters at *(a)* 30,000 miles, *(b)* 40,000 miles, *(c)* 50,000 miles and *(d)* 60,000 miles; and if he will publish the results; [32867]

(2) what research has been carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory on the problem of cold start emissions from catalytic converters; [32868]

(3) what research has been carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory on the performance of catalytic converters in service in reducing harmful vehicle emissions. [32866]

Mr. Norris: None. However, the Government recognise that improving catalyst performance and maintaining it under all operating conditions are key factors in securing improvements in air quality. New vehicle standards already in place for 1996–97 will deliver improvements in catalyst warm-up time. As part of the EU discussions on standards for 2000, the Government have made proposals for a cold start test aimed at further reducing warm-up time to within a few seconds, a study of the case for extending durability requirements for new cars from 80,000 km to 160,000 km and the use of on-board diagnostics to monitor emissions performance throughout the life of the vehicle.

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars built since 1993 fitted with catalytic converters use super unleaded fuel. [32869]

Mr. Norris: As at April 1995, super unleaded petrol accounted for approximately 4.8 per cent. of total petrol

sales. The precise number of cars using super unleaded is not known, although since October 1990 all petrol cars have had to be designed to use premium unleaded petrol, which is universally recommended by manufacturers. Moreover, very few new cars currently on sale in the United Kingdom can derive any benefit from the use of super unleaded petrol.

Driving Licence Fraud

Mr. Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to reduce driving licence fraud. [32731]

Mr. Norris: We plan to introduce a new plastic card driving licence in July 1996 incorporating a photograph of the holder. This will help to eliminate misuse of licences and impersonation at driving tests.

Orange Badge Scheme

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received about councils refusing to recognise the orange badge disabled parking scheme; and what plans his Department has to ensure that the orange badge scheme is accepted throughout the country. [33223]

Mr. Norris: We receive a small but steady flow of representations about the fact that the orange badge scheme does not apply in central London, and about arrangements introduced by some local authorities elsewhere which have the effect of excluding orange badge holders along with other motorists, either absolutely or unless they have a special locally issued permit.

The local authorities concerned with the central London area have, with the Department's encouragement, agreed limited parking concessions for orange badge holders and the possibility of extension is kept under review. We have issued advice to local authorities that are considering pedestrianising an area that the needs of disabled people must be fully taken into account; and we have made clear that we discourage local schemes requiring permits in addition to orange badges, although we have no power to prevent them.

Cones Hotline

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what is the total number of calls received by the cones hotline; and how many resulted in remedial action being taken; [32752]

(2) what is the total cost of the cones hotline. [33115]

Mr. Watts: The cones hotline began in June 1992 and by the end of June 1995 it had received 17,700 calls. Approximately half the calls concerned cones and traffic management, and half were requests for information about roadworks or general queries about roads, planning, policy, and so on. Where appropriate we have taken steps to alter the layout of cones, improve signposting at roadworks, review diversion routes, repaint road markings and investigate road lighting at roadworks as a result of comments and complaints from hotline callers. In five cases, this follow-up action required the complete removal of cones and traffic management measures which were no longer required. During the last financial year, 1994–95, the cost of the dedicated service line was approximately £5,000. The cost of staffing the line was met from within existing establishment and budgets.

Pollution Monitoring Centre

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pollution monitoring centres are now operating in regard to vehicle emissions in each of the largest 20 cities in the United Kingdom. [32680]

Mr. Clappison: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows nitrogen dioxide, NO_2, and volatile organic compounds, VOCs, monitoring sites where the results are representive of vehicle emissions for the 20 largest cities in the United Kingdom:

City	*Automatic NO_2 sites*	*Automatic VOC's sites*	*NO_2 diffusion tube sites*
Greater London	5	2	72
Birmingham	2	1	4
Glasgow	1	—	4
Liverpool	1	—	—
Sheffield	1	—	—
Leeds	1	1	4
Manchester	1	—	4
Bristol	1	1	4
Edinburgh	1	1	4
Leicester	1	—	—
Kingston upon Hull	1	—	4
Coventry	—	—	4
Belfast	1	1	4
Bradford	—	—	4
Nottingham	—	—	4
Stoke on Trent	—	—	4
Cardiff	1	1	—
Wolverhampton	—	—	4
Plymouth	—	—	—
Derby	—	—	4

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Television

Mr. Allen: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the Government's position on the European Parliament's amendments to the draft EC directive on the use of standards for the transmission of signals. [31914]

Mr. Ian Taylor: The Government are considering carefully the European Parliament's amendments to the draft EC directive on the standards for the transmission of television.

Benchmarking

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how successful his Department has been at encouraging the increased use of benchmarking within industry; and if he will make a statement. [33275]

Mr. Ian Taylor: My Department recognises that benchmarking provides an important stimulus to improving competitiveness within United Kingdom companies, and has a number of related initiatives in this area. Full details of our activities were published in the recent competitiveness White Paper.

The benchmarking challenge was set up in 1993 to encourage trade associations to form benchmarking clubs. Twelve successful associations were supported under the challenge and their activities are progressing. We are also collaborating with an increasing number of trade associations on the implementation of benchmarking initiatives. These activities are designed to improve the competitiveness of the association members.

My right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade announced at the CBI conference and in the competitiveness White Paper that the Department would establish a national benchmarking scheme, to provide a high-quality benchmarking service for business links and business support organisations. Discussions are taking place between the Department, CBI and business links on the introduction of such a scheme.

Consequently, demand for DTI benchmarking publications has been high, with over 40,000 publications being distributed in two years.

Teaching Company Scheme

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what are the proposed locations for the six extra teaching company scheme centres for small firms which his Department intends to open by the end of 1995. [33276]

Mr. Ian Taylor: Bids from universities for five TCS centres for small firms are currently being considered; decisions are likely to be announced next month.

In addition, a proposal is being considered for a TCS centre for small firms on Merseyside to be assisted by the European regional development fund.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many businesses in the metropolitan borough of Barnsley are currently participants in the teaching company scheme. [33281]

Mr. Taylor: One business in the metropolitan borough of Barnsley, Ice Technology Ltd. of Penistone, is currently a TCS industrial partner.

Growth Targets

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what growth targets for business investment his Department has set. [33280]

Mr. Eggar: Companies, not Governments, are best placed to take decisions about business investment. The best encouragement the Government can give companies to invest is a stable economic environment based on low inflation. With inflation staying low and the recovery proceeding steadily, business investment is expected to grow by 4.75 per cent. in 1995 and by 9.5 per cent. in 1996.

Defence Industrial Base

Dr. David Clark: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is his Department's definition of the United Kingdom defence industrial base. [33233]

Mr. Eggar: My Department has not defined the United Kingdom defence industrial base. In conjunction with the Ministry of Defence and industry, my Department has commissioned a study on the value of the defence industry to the UK economy. The first phase is due to report in July. The key conclusions will be reported to the House.

Dr. Clark: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what percentage of the United Kingdom manufacturing output was accounted for by the defence industry sector in each of the last 10 years. [33232]

Mr. Eggar: My Department has produced the following broad estimates based on figures published by Central Statistical Office and the Ministry of Defence. Figures are available only up to 1992.

Year	*Per cent.*
1982	9
1983	8
1984	8
1985	8
1986	8
1987	7
1988	7
1989	7
1990	7
1991	7
1992	6

Directors

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what distinction his Department draws between the role of executive and non-executive directors; and whether non-executive directors are expected to supervise the day-to-day work of the executive directors. [33013]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The distinction between executive and non-executive directors is not defined in company law. However, I agree with the recommendation in the Cadbury code of best practice that non-executive directors should bring an independent judgment to bear on issues of strategy, performance and resources, including key appointments, and standards of conduct.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many bankruptcy orders were made in the Great Grimsby county court in each of the last three years. [32510]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The total numbers of bankruptcy orders made in the Great Grimsby county court in each of the last three years were as follows:

Year ended 31 March	*Number of bankruptcy orders*
1993	132
1994	134
1995	94

Company Officials (Prosecutions)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many directors were successfully

prosecuted by the Insolvency Service, indicating the relevant Act of Parliament and the section number, in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994. [32603]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The number of directors successfully prosecuted by the Insolvency Service in the last three years and details of the offences concerned are as follows:

	Relevant statute	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Number of directors prosecuted (total for the year)		116	81	65
Nature of offence				
Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986				
Undischarged bankrupt acting in the management of a company	Section 11	29	25	23
Persons acting in management of company whilst disqualified	Section 13	7	5	9
Insolvency Act 1986				
Fraud in anticipation of winding up	Section 206	6	1	1
Transaction in fraud of creditors	Section 207	—	1	1
Misconduct in course of winding up	Section 208	2	1	2
Material omission	Section 210	2	2	—
False representation	Section 211	2	—	—
Use of prohibited company name	Section 216	5	4	—
Failure to cooperate	Section 235	—	—	2
Non-disclosure	Section 353	1	—	—
Concealment of property and failure to account	Section 354	—	1	—
False statements	Section 356	—	—	1
Undischarged bankrupt obtaining credit and trading under a false name	Section 360	6	3	—
Failure to keep proper accounting records	Section 361	2	1	1
Companies Act 1948				
Undischarged bankrupt taking part in management of company	Section 187	2	—	—
Companies Act 1985				
Failure to deliver return of allotments	Section 88	—	—	1
Public limited company carrying on business without a trading certificate	Section 177	—	—	1
Failure to keep or maintain accounting records of a company	Section 223	91	51	28
Persons acting in management of company whilst disqualified	Section 295	—	3	—
Undischarged bankrupt taking part in management of company	Section 302	3	—	—
Fraudulent trading by a company	Section 458	17	24	22
Theft Act 1968				
Theft of property	Section 1	7	7	4
Obtaining property by deception	Section 15	13	7	8
Obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception	Section 16	—	1	—
False accounting	Section 17	—	4	—
Obtaining a valuable security by deception	Section 20	45	—	1
Theft Act 1978				
Evasion of liability/obtaining services	Section 1	1	—	—
	Section 2	1	3	3
	Section 20	2	—	—
Perjury Act 1911				
False statement by a witness	Section 1	—	—	1
Making untrue statements	Section 5	1	1	3
Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981				
Forgery	Section 2	1	—	—
Forgery	Section 3	—	—	3
Financial Services Act 1986				
Illegal investment business	Section 4	—	—	1
Accessories and Abettors Act 1861				
Aiding and abetting	Section 8	8	6	5
Criminal Attempts Act 1981				
Attempted criminal act	Section 1	1	—	—
Criminal Law Act 1977				
Conspiracy	Section 1	4	6	—
Conspiracy to Defraud		—	—	8

Information for the previous year could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many bankrupts were successfully prosecuted for offences under the Insolvency Act 1986 in 1994, identifying the relevant section, by the Insolvency Service. [32587]

Mr. Evans: In 1994 a total of 66 bankrupts were successfully prosecuted by the Insolvency Service for 128 offences under the Insolvency Act 1986 as a result of the Official Receiver's report. Details of the offences are as follows:

Nature of offence	*Insolvency Act 1986 relevant section*	*Number of convictions*
Misconduct in course of winding up	208	1
Material omission	210	2
False representations	211	1
Non-disclosure	353	4
Concealment of property and failure to account	354	13
Concealment of books and papers; falsification	355	2
Material omission and false statements	356	10
Fraudulent disposal of property	357	2
Undischarged bankrupt obtaining credit and trading under a false name	360	65
Failure to keep proper accounting records	361	18
Gambling	362	10
Total		128

Astra Holdings plc

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what were his Department's findings in respect of the care exercised by Mr. James and his colleagues on the main board of Astra in advising shareholders to subscribe to a rights issue for the acquisition of BMARC. [33108]

Mr. Ian Taylor: As the opening paragraphs of the inspectors' report on Astra Holdings plc makes clear, the inspectors were asked to investigate in particular the circumstances surrounding the acquisition by Astra of PRB sa and the rights issue made in that connection. The inspectors also investigated a number of ancillary matters and reviewed the company's accounting policies. In relation to the acquisition by Astra of BMARC, the inspectors' report concentrates on the effect of this acquisition on the results of the Astra group.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will summarise the findings of his Department's inspectors concerning the manner in which the directors of Astra Holdings had performed its duties. [33050]

Mr. Taylor: I refer the hon. Member to the report of the inspectors on Astra Holdings plc, published by HMSO, ISBN 0115153514, a copy of which was placed in the Library of the House.

Offshore Installations

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many oil and gas platforms in the North sea are estimated to be taken out of production by 2000; and of those how many are expected to be *(a)* brought ashore for dismantling; *(b)* toppled at site and *(c)* removed and sunk in a deep water location. [33536]

Mr. Eggar: Depending upon field performance and economic factors at the time, current estimates indicate that some 32 fixed offshore installations on the United Kingdom continental shelf could reach the end of their lives by the turn of the century. Of these, 19 are located in water depths of less than 75 m and in accordance with international guidelines will be totally removed. Their disposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis, but it is likely that they will be returned to shore. Decisions on those installations in deeper water, where under international guidelines partial removal is permitted, will be taken according to individual circumstances and in the light of a comparative assessment of the alternative options. This will have proper regard for environmental considerations and other users of the sea, as well as risk, technical feasibility and cost in order to arrive at the best practicable environmental option.

Depressive Illnesses

Mr. Skinner: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will introduce legislation providing safeguards to prevent persons suffering depressive illnesses from being discriminated against by insurance companies, and if he will make a statement. [33048]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: No. However, the Disability Discrimination Bill, currently before Parliament, will give some protection to people suffering severe depressive illness.

International Atomic Energy Agency Report

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when the most recent safeguards implementation report was completed by the International Atomic Energy Agency; what comments were made in the report about the application of safeguards on United Kingdom facilities and materials exported from the United Kingdom; and if he will arrange for a copy of the report to be placed in the Library. [32876]

Mr. Eggar: The International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards implementation report for 1994 was issued to members of the agency's board of governors in May 1995. The detailed report is confidential to the board of governors, but its contents will be summarised in the IAEA annual report for 1994, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House when it is published. In addition, the IAEA and its board of governors have recommended publication of an executive summary to the 1994 SIR, a copy of which will also be placed in the Library of the House when it becomes available.

Post Office

Mr. Spellar: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the external financing limit for the Post Office for 1995–96; and what was the figure for the two previous years. [32820]

Mr. Lang: For 1995–96, the Post Office has been set a negative external financing limit of £213 million. For the two previous years, the figures were as follows:

£ million

Year	Target	Outturn
1993–94	–181	–182
1994–95	–226	–235

Newspapers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to his oral answer of 14 June, *Official Report*, column 777, what response he has received from the Director General of Fair Trading regarding concerns about newspaper carriage charges. [32824]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: I understand that the Office of Fair Trading is monitoring carefully the effects of the recent changes in the newspaper industry, including their impact on carriage charges. The OFT will keep under consideration whether a further reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission would be justified.

Ceramic Industry

Ms Walley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment he has made of the future employment potential of the ceramic industry in north Staffordshire. [33224]

Mr. Eggar: As with any other, the prospects for this sector—including employment—depend on the strength of its international competitiveness. The Department is working with the sector on competitiveness through initiatives such as a tableware strategy group, a manufacturing improvement club and regular discussions with the British Ceramics Confederation on a range of other issues which affect its future prospects.

Mrs. Figoni

Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if his Department intends to seek further medical evidence in the case of Mrs. Figoni of Glan Gors Fawr Rhosybol, Amlwch, Ynys Mon, Gwynedd, before announcing his decision on the application by British Gas for a compulsory purchase order in respect of land at Glans Gors Fawr; and when the expects to announce his decision. [32658]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* Having considered the matter carefully, I do not intend to seek further medical evidence. I expect a decision to be announced shortly.

Mr. Jones: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the procedure followed in the inquiry into the application for a compulsory purchase order by British Gas relating to land belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Figoni of Glan Gors Fawr Rhosybol, Amlwch, Ynys Mon, Gwynedd; and what assessment he has made of whether proper regard was given to the objections made to the location of the inquiry. [32659]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* I am satisfied that the procedure followed at the inquiry and the opportunities afforded for representations to be made subsequently were adequate to ensure that proper consideration could be given to all matters relating to British Gas's application and that proper regard was given to the one objection made with respect to the location of the inquiry.

Deregulation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what are the criteria used by his Department to identify regulations as suitable for repeal. [33279]

Mr. Freeman: I have been asked to reply.

Under the deregulation initiative, Departments have reviewed all their regulations which impact on business to identify candidates for repeal or amendment. In so doing, each regulation is considered on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not it still serves a useful need and whether it is unduly burdensome.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Legal Aid (Inquests)

32. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what studies have been initiated to discover the demand for legal aid in regard to inquests. [31470]

Mr. John M. Taylor: None. However, this issue is raised in the legal aid Green Paper, on which the Government would welcome views.

Court Practices

33. **Mr. Mackinlay:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will introduce legislation to modernise courts' practices. [31471]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Courts' practices are already being modernised through the increased use of information technology—for example, the use of closed circuit television links for child witnesses, lap-top computers and communication links for the judiciary, case tracking systems in various courts, infra-red hearing enhancement systems in courtrooms, and two widely used computerised bulk issue centres for summonses and warrants.

Judicial Appointments

35. **Mr. Janner:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many *(a)* women and *(b)* members of ethnic minorities are currently (i) high court judges, (ii) county court judges, (iii) circuit judges and (iv) chairpersons of industrial tribunals. [31474]

Mr. John M. Taylor: On 1 June 1995 there were six female High Court judges, 31 female circuit judges and eight female full-time chairmen of industrial tribunals. On the same date there were, according to the best information we have available, no High Court judges of ethnic minority origin, four circuit judges of ethnic minority origin and two full-time chairmen of industrial tribunals of ethnic minority origin. Circuit judges sitting in the county court are included in the circuit judge figures.

Disabled People

36. **Mr. Barnes:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what is his Department's policy concerning the accessibility of the judicial system to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [31475]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Facilities for disabled people are continuously reviewed and every effort is made to improve them as necessary.

Court Service (Delays)

37. **Mrs. Roche:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will make a statement regarding delays in the Court Service. [31476]

Mr. John M. Taylor: While there will always be an element of delay in all court proceedings, the Court Service is taking active measures to keep it to the minimum.

Legal Aid (Eligibility)

38. **Dr. Goodson-Wickes:** To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what recent representations he has considered about eligibility for legal aid. [31478]

Mr. John M. Taylor: I receive many representations about legal aid eligibility. Recently there have been 50 responses to the consultation paper "Legal Aid for the Apparently Wealthy".

Limitation Legislation

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department when he expects to complete his review of limitation legislation. [31473]

Mr. John M. Taylor: As I informed the hon. Member on 13 March, the review is to be carried out by the Law Commission. It announced in its sixth programme that it hopes to have completed its work on limitation periods generally by the end of 1998.

Law Commission

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department when he expects the Government to publish their response to the Law Commission's report on mental incapacity. [33057]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Government have set up an interdepartmental working group, chaired by the Lord Chancellor's Department, to consider the Law Commission report on mental incapacity. The group is to produce an initial report for consideration by Ministers by September 1 1995. The Government's initial response will be published once Ministers have had an opportunity to consider the working group's report.

Small Claims

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department when he expects to implement Lord Woolf's recommendation that the small claims limit, other than for personal injury claims, should be raised to £3,000. [33111]

Mr. John M. Taylor: No timetable has yet been set for the laying of a statutory instrument before the House.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what plans he has to exclude all personal injury claims valued at under £1,000 from the small claims procedure. [33112]

Mr. Taylor: In his interim report on access to justice Lord Woolf recommended that, pending the introduction of a new "fast track" procedure, personal injury cases up to £1,000 should remain within the small claims jurisdiction, and the Lord Chancellor has accepted this recommendation.

Internet

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what plans he has to *(a)* allow or *(b)* compel HMSO to make available statutes, other official parliamentary publications from his Department and court judgments on the Internet; and if he will make a statement. [33113]

Mr. John M. Taylor: These and related matters are kept under review but it would be premature to make a statement.

Crown Office Liaison

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what liaison arrangements exist between his office and the Crown Office in Edinburgh. [31472]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Lord Chancellor's Department and Crown Office consult each other on matters where they share a common interest.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

RMS St. Helena

Sir David Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when it is anticipated that the report of consultants on the sailing schedule of RMS St. Helena will be published. [31580]

Mr. Hanley: The consultants' draft report is currently under consideration. It is hoped that the final report will be available in approximately three months' time when copies will be made available to the Libraries of the House.

Population Control (China)

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the amount of funding support given to the Chinese Family Planning Association by the Chinese Government. [32016]

Mr. Hanley: We have asked the International Planned Parenthood Federation whether it can obtain this information. Any information received will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on whether the UNFPA has changed its view on whether the Chinese population control programme is totally voluntary. [32014]

Mr. Hanley: The United Nations Population Fund does not claim that the ways in which the Chinese family planning programmes are implemented are always voluntary. UNFPA has continuously voiced its concern to the Government of China over reports of coercion.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the prevalence of articles encouraging coercive population control in Chinese newspapers in the 1990s. [32010]

Mr. Hanley: We are not able to monitor all press publications in China. However, we understand that the press generally reflects official policy on population issues.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the sums given by the UNFPA to the construction of factories in China for the manufacture of intra-uterine devices; how many factories have been built; when they were completed; how many IUDs are manufactured each year; if such IUDs are inserted coercively; and if China now imports IUDs. [32018]

Mr. Hanley: The United Nations Population Fund has assisted in the upgrading of five copper IUD manufacturing facilities at a cost of approximately $7 million. China has at least one other such facility. We do not have information on the completion dates of these facilities, or the number of IUDs currently being manufactured in, or imported to, China. We have received reports that IUDs have sometimes been inserted coercively, and we totally condemn such practices.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the training given by the UNFPA for Chinese population control officials; and if such training is offered to officials from the national, state and prefectural levels of Chinese government; what computer hardware and software is provided by the UNFPA to *(a)* the Chinese State Family Planning Commission and *(b)* prefectural level population control offices; what systems this equipment was designed to run and to what use the equipment is now being put; and what information he has on the training offered by the UNFPA in the use of IT for population control purposes. [32006]

Mr. Hanley: The United Nations Population Fund's recent training has focused on interpersonal counselling and informed consent practices for family planning and health workers at local level.

UNFPA supplied computers for both the 1982 and 1990 censuses, and it has supplied computers to 22 Chinese universities for teaching population science. The computers that were provided for censuses are now used for inter-census surveys and research.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on any statements made by the IPPF or UNFPA which specifically condemn the use of coercion in population control in China. [32012]

Mr. Hanley: Both the United Nations Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation make it clear in their policies and statements that they strongly oppose the use of coercion in population and reproductive health programmes. Neither organisation issues public statements criticising the population policies of any individual country. However, both have expressed their concern, in written and oral communications with the Chinese authorities, about reported incidents of coercion. We believe that both the UNFPA and IPPF are capable of making the right judgments about how best they can help towards improving population and reproductive health policies in individual countries.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the role played by the Chinese State Family Planning Commission in the drafting and dissemination of coercive family planning regulations to Chinese states since 1979, in organising coercive population control initiatives, and in the initiation and implementation of the responsibility system and the veto with one vote system in which cadres are judged by their results in keeping to the one child policy. [32008]

Mr. Hanley: We understand that the State Family Planning Commission has overall responsibility for policy on family planning, and that provincial people's congresses, municipalities and autonomous regions are responsible for establishing their own regulations relating to family size. Responsibility for programme implementation rests with provincial family planning commissions. We have no authoritative information on the "responsibility system".

Philippines Cordillera

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the European Union agricultural assistance programme in the Philippines Cordillera; and what changes he will be seeking in the next phase of this programme. [31845]

Mr. Hanley: The European Commission has not yet released the results of a recent evaluation of the Philippines Cordillera project. We understand, however, that it is likely to recommend the funding of a second phase of the project. We will seek to ensure the evaluation findings are fully reflected in the proposals for any such second phase.

WALES

Departmental Policies

Mr. Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he intends to continue with all the policies of his last two predecessors. [31451]

Mr. Hague: The Government's policies for Wales are clear and will continue.

Mr. Hanson: To ask the Secretary State for Wales what changes of policy he plans. [31454]

Mr. Hague: The Government's policies for Wales are clear and will continue.

Voluntary Sector

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what initiatives he intends to take to encourage the work of the voluntary sector in Wales. [31438]

Mr. Richards: We shall continue to encourage, develop and maintain a strong, vigorous and independent voluntary sector.

Caretakers

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will provide funding to improve the working conditions of caretakers in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [31439]

Mr. Hague: This is a matter for the employers involved.

Departmental Priorities

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will state his priorities for the next six months. [31441]

Mr. Hague: The Government's policies for Wales are clear and will continue.

State Nursery Schools

Mr. Rowlands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has of the percentage of children of the age of three and four years currently in state nursery schools; and if he will make a statement. [31442]

Mr. Richards: Some 5 per cent. of three and four-year-olds in Wales currently attend maintained nursery schools, either full or part time. Almost another 31 per cent. attend nursery classes in maintained primary schools, and a further 36.5 per cent. attend maintained schools' reception classes, again either full or part-time.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Employment announced on 6 July, *Official Report,* columns 517-32, our proposals to give all parents the opportunity to choose a publicly funded place in nursery education for their four-year-olds.

Official Duties

Mr. Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how he divides his time between his role as Secretary of State for Wales and his other official duties. [31443]

Mr. Hague: I have no other official duties.

National Health Service (Dental Services)

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many representations he has received on NHS dental cover in Wales during the past 12 months. [31445]

Mr. Richards: In the past 12 months, 218 representations on the question of dental cover have been received either from or on behalf of people living in Wales. Of these, 136 were for hon. Members.

Mr. Wigley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what progress has been made regarding the provision of NHS dental treatment in Wales. [31453]

Mr. Richards: There are presently 850 general dental practitioners in Wales, 36 per cent. more than in 1979. Some 1.7 million patients are registered with a dentist and some £68 million was spent on NHS dentistry in 1993–94.

Earlier this year the then Secretary of State announced that he was making a further £2.5 million available in Wales to improve dental services in the community and an announcement will be made soon about how that money will be spent.

Unitary Authorities

Mr. Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he plans to meet leaders of the new unitary authorities in Wales to discuss service provision. [31446]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: I have already meet the leaders of two of the new unitary authorities and my colleagues and I look forward to meeting all of the other leaders in the future.

Welsh Grand Committee

Mr. John Owen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will renew the policies put forward in 1992 on the meetings and format of the Welsh Grand Committee. [31448]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: It is up to the Committee to determine when and where it meets and such things are arranged through the usual channels.

Rural White Paper

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has for a rural White Paper for Wales. [31450]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have no plans to publish a rural White Paper for Wales.

Civil Service (Jobs)

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary or State for Wales how many full-time civil service jobs there are in Wales; and how many he expects there to be in two years time. [31452]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: There were 28,724 full-time equivalent civil servants in Wales at 1 April 1994. This figure includes part-time staff who are counted as half units. Information on full-time staff only is not held centrally. The civil service will remain a significant employer in Wales.

Welsh Development Agency (Property Sales)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what effect he expects the sale of Welsh Development Agency property to have on future investment and job creation in Wales. [31455]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Receipts from the sale of Welsh Development Agency property will be reinvested in the economy of Wales to create more jobs and more investment.

Fire Service (Reorganisation)

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has to visit Wales in the next month to discuss the response to the proposals to reorganise the fire service. [31457]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: No, the responsibility for fire brigades and their reorganisation in Wales rests with my right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary.

Countryside Council for Wales (Budget)

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will reverse the recent reductions in the budget of the Countryside Council for Wales. [31459]

Mr. Hague: The most recent adjustment to the budget of the Countryside Council for Wales was an addition of up to £525,000 to enable necessary new work to be undertaken in the current financial year.

Landfill Sites

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement concerning his policy on the tipping of contaminated soil and other substances in landfill sites. [31460]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Landfill sites for the disposal of waste must be licensed by waste regulation authorities. Individual licence conditions determine the types of waste which may be deposited at a site.

The Government have provided guidance to waste regulation authorities in a series of waste management papers.

Tuberculosis (Cattle)

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what advice he has received on the reason for the change in the number of positive tuberculosis tests for cattle in the last five years. [31735]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: There has been an increase incidence of the disease and investigations support the contention that much of the increase is due to infection from badgers. The Government are already carrying out research into ways of avoiding transmission of disease from badgers to cattle, including studies on the effects of badger removal operations on the badger population and their impact on the subsequent spread of disease within the badger population.

A55

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the estimated cost of building the dual carriageway A55 expressway between Chester and Bangor in current prices. [32931]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The information is not available in the form requested. The improvements to the A55 between Chester and Bangor cost some £700 million.

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is his estimate of the completion date of the dual carriageway from Menai Bridge to Holyhead. [32930]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Schemes to extend the A55 dual carriageway across Anglesy are included in the "programmed" pool, planned to start before April 1998, of the forward trunk road programme published in the Welsh Office's departmental report, Cm 2815, on 9 March 1995. Once started, the schemes will be completed, as soon as possible.

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the cost of building the Conway A55 expressway tunnel. [32933]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The cost was £228,000,000.

Housing

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what new measures he will take to encourage local authority and housing association homes for single men; and if he will make a statement. [32936]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Cm 2901, "Our Future Homes", published on 27 June, set out the Government's proposals for meeting future housing need.

Bypasses

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the cost of building *(a)* the Hawarden bypass *(b)* the Chester southerly bypass *(c)* the Norling bypass and *(d)* the Mold bypass in current prices. [32932]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The information is not available in the form requested. The actual cost of each scheme was: *(a)* Hawarden bypass, £32,000,000; *(b)* Chester southerly bypass, £16,000,000; *(c)* Northop bypass, £14,000,000; *(d)* Mold bypass, £18,000,000.

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he proposes to build the Alltami bypass; and if he will make a statement. [32934]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Proposals for an Alltami bypass form part of the A494 Mold-Ewloe improvement. This scheme is included in the longer-term consideration pool of the forward trunk road programme published in the Welsh Office's departmental report, Cm 2815, on 9 March 1995.

Rail Services

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how he proposes to encourage passenger and freight traffic to move from road to rail; and if he will make a statement. [32929]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The Government's programme for transferring the railways to the private sector will result in improved and more attractive services. Freight facilities grants are available to encourage the transfer of freight from road to rail or inland waterway where this would provide significant environmental benefits.

Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowances

Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make it his policy to pay interest on

hill livestock compensatory allowances to farmers in the event of late payment. [32389]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Clwyd, South-West (Mr. Jones) on 27 June 1995, *Official Report*, column *614*.

Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of farmers have now received hill livestock compensatory allowance payments for the current year. [32364]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Ninety-one per cent.

Agricultural Claims

Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the number of appeals against disallowance of claims for agricultural subsidies in the last complete year for which figures are available; and how many appeals succeeded on the grounds that the applicant had made a genuine mistake in providing the information. [32363]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: This information is not recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nurses' Pay

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *200*, if he will list the dates on which each trust and directly managed unit in Wales employing nurses made a pay offer. [33288]

Mr. Hague: This information is not held centrally.

Waiting Lists

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answer of 3 July, *Official Report*, column *46*, what special measures he proposes to assist those health authorities with out-patient waiting lists in excess of six months' waiting time to bring their lists into line with patients charter undertakings. [33290]

Mr. Hague: The second tranche of waiting times initiative moneys, some £6.7 million, was released to health authorities in April. All authorities have confirmed their commitment to the hospital waiting times measures in the patients charter for Wales. By the end of September it should be rare for anyone to have waited over six months for a first out-patient appointment.

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answer of 3 July, *Official Report*, column *46*, how many patients on the waiting lists of general practitioner fundholders are included within the total given for health authorities in each of the two columns listed. [33289]

Mr. Hague: The information relating to waiting lists at 31 March 1995 is shown separately for patients of health authorities and general practitioner fundholders in the table:

	Number waiting more than six months for out-patient appointment		*Number waiting more than 18 months for in-patient or day case treatment*	
Health authority area	*Health authority lists*	*GP fundholder lists*	*Health authority lists*	*GP fundholder lists*
Clwyd	477	224	74	—
Dyfed	1,231	63	92	17
Gwent	2,588	433	2	—
Gwynedd	315	270	11	11
Mid Glamorgan	3,091	445	184	19
Powys	206	—	—	—
South Glamorgan	2,612	1,187	132	24
West Glamorgan	1,739	1,643	65	35
Wales	12,259	4,265	560	106

National Parks

Mr. Bennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the number of access agreements made in each national park in the most recent year for which figures are available. [33489]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The information is not available centrally. I will obtain the information from the parks and write to the hon. Member.

SCOTLAND

Co-operatives

Mr. McAvoy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what action he is taking to ensure that Scottish Enterprise recognises the potential of co-operatives in Scotland; what joint activities it is undertaking with the Scottish Co-operative Development Committee to this end; and if he will make a statement. [32473]

Mr. Kynoch: The Government encourage Scottish Enterprise to work closely with other relevant organisations to create opportunities for enterprise, employment and self-employment in Scotland. Co-operatives have a role to play in this. Any joint activity involving Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Co-operative Development Committee is an operational matter for Scottish Enterprise. I have asked its chairman to write to the hon. Member.

Women's Aid Groups

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will increase funding and assistance to women's aid groups; and if he will make a statement. [32607]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The majority of the funding for local women's aid projects is provided by local housing and social work authorities. Housing authorities have a statutory duty to assist people who are homeless or potentially homeless, including women who are fleeing domestic violence Under the community care arrangements, local social work authorities can contract

with women's aid groups to provide support and accommodation to the victims of domestic violence. Local agencies are best placed to determine the requirement for such services in response to local needs and circumstance.

A large majority of the local women's aid refuges in Scotland are affiliated to the national umbrella organisation, Scottish Women's Aid. Scottish Office grant funding to the SWA has increased by over 60 per cent. in the past three years and provides around 75 per cent. of the organisation's total income.

The Scottish Office also assists local women's aid projects through the urban programme. The Scottish Office provides 75 per cent. of the urban aid grant, with local authorities meeting the balance. Urban programme funding for women's aid projects has also increased significantly in recent years.

Quality Standards

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make all companies which supply Scottish Office and local authorities meet and attain BS5750 standards; and if he will make a statement. [32606]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: My Department is very conscious of the importance of a range of quality issues and gives these due weight in reaching procurement decisions. It is for the supplier to determine the quality management system to be used in providing goods or services, and my Department requires to be assured that there are such systems in place and it is normal practice to ask suppliers to describe these in their bid or at the pre-qualification stage. Accreditation to BS5750 is a helpful way for suppliers to demonstrate their quality systems, but we do not insist on this as it is not appropriate in all cases and there can be satisfactory alternatives.

In relation to local authorities, it is for authorities themselves to determine the quality which they require. The question of whether or not a supplier has BS5750 accreditation is one factor which authorities may wish to take into account. For services subject to compulsory competitive tendering, we issued guidance to authorities on quality assurance in the Scottish Office Environment Department circular 13/93.

Concessionary Travel Schemes

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will introduce a national concession travel scheme in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [32608]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: No. Regional and islands councils have discretionary powers under section 93 of the Transport Act 1985 which allow any local authority, or any two or more local authorities acting jointly, to establish a concessionary travel scheme for eligible categories of person. After local government reform, the new councils will retain these powers and the Strathclyde passenger transport authority will have the power to establish a scheme for its area. Decisions on the extent and administration of such schemes are entirely for the local authorities to consider, taking account of local needs and circumstances. The Government see no need to introduce a national concession travel scheme in Scotland.

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on arrangements for concessionary travel for passengers over the age of retirement after April 1996. [32894]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: After local government reform the new councils will retain the discretionary powers under section 93 of the Transport Act 1985 which allow any local authority, or any two or more local authorities acting jointly, to establish a concessionary travel scheme for eligible categories of person including passengers over retirement age. The Strathclyde passenger transport authority will also have the power to establish a scheme for its area. Decisions on the extent and administration of such schemes are entirely for the local authorities to consider, taking account of local needs and circumstances.

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list those local authorities that currently operate concessionary travel rates for pensioners. [32895]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: All Scottish regional and islands councils operate a concessionary travel scheme, although the eligible categories and charges may vary between local authorities. The scheme operated by Orkney islands council is restricted to the inter-islands air service.

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate the current net real cost of allowing concessionary travel schemes for pensioners in the last three years for which figures are available. [32896]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Concessionary travel schemes are provided for different categories of person and separate figures are unavailable for pensioners. Local authority net expenditure on total concessionary fares in Scotland over the last three years is as follows:

£ thousand

	Cash terms	*Real terms*[1]
1992–93	38,868	41,960
1993–94	41,518	43,514
1994–95	45,735	47,107

[1] Calculated from Her Majesty's Treasury GDP deflators dated 28 June 1995 converted to 1995–96 prices.

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate the cost of extending concessionary fare practices to other local authority areas that currently have no concessionary schemes. [32897]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: All regional and islands councils already operate concessionary fares schemes.

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to meet local government representatives, pensioner organisations and the other interested parties to discuss concessionary travel schemes for retired people; and if he will make a statement. [32898]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: No meetings are planned. Decisions on the extent and administration of such schemes are entirely for the local authorities to consider, taking account of local needs and circumstances.

Farm Thefts

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what was the number of cases of livestock theft for each of the last 10 years; [33130]

(2) what was the number of cases of theft of produce from fields for each of the last 10 years; [33131]

(3) what was the number of burglaries on farms and farm out-buildings for each of the last 10 years. [33132]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Travelling People

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what guidance has been given to procurators fiscal concerning action to move on travelling people from unauthorised encampments in districts where official sites are available for travelling people; and if he will make a statement on the encampment by the A198 road at Prestongrange, East Lothian. [33060]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Since 1 April 1985, the toleration of unlawful encampment by travelling people has been linked to achievement by local authorities of provision of pitch targets set by the Secretary of State for Scotland on the basis of recommendations by his Advisory Committee on Scotland's Travelling People. My noble and learned Friend the Lord Advocate has issued instructions to procurators fiscal to the effect that, in considering the appropriateness of criminal proceedings in relation to unlawful encampment by travelling people, they need not have regard to the policy of toleration where the relevant local authority has met its pitch target. These instructions relate to the consideration of criminal proceedings where a report has been received from the police. The procurator fiscal at Haddington has yet to receive a report from Lothian and Borders police in relation to any encampment by the A198 road at Prestongrange, East Lothian.

Private Finance Initiatives

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list those projects incorporating private finance initiatives in Scotland specifying *(a)* the value of the private finance, *(b)* the region and *(c)* the type of industry. [29619]

Mr. Kynoch *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* Details of projects involving the private finance initiative which are currently under way in Scotland are contained in the table. The value of each project is estimated since the investment has come from the private sector and thus falls outwith the responsibility of the Scottish Office.

£ Million

Project	*Estimated value* £
Skye Bridge	23.6
Ayrshire and Arran Health Boards:	
90 elderly care beds at Irvine	3.8
Lothian Health Board:	
Joint Venture on siting of Clinical Genetic Service	0.8
Lothian and Forth Valley Trust Consortium:	
Waste collection and incineration	5.0
Northern Consortium Trusts and Health Boards:	
Waste collection and incineration	5.0

The Scottish Office document, "Private Finance Partnership in Scotland", published in March 1995 identified potential projects with a total value of £2.68 billion.

Feudal Superiors

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on district councils' legal rights over feudal superiors of land on which houses are owned by district councils or the individual occupiers. [30662]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* In general, district councils' relationship with feudal superiors in respect of land is the same as that of any other owners. District councils have, for instance, the same right as other owners to apply to a lands tribunal to seek variation or discharge of feudal rights under section 1 of the Conveyancing and Feudal Reform (Scotland) Act 1970.

District councils have no legal rights in relation to feudal superiors of land owned by individual householders.

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what legislation has been enacted to ensure feudal superiors could not repossess council houses bought under the right-to-buy legislation; and if he will make a statement on the legal rights of feudal superiors over land on which a council house has been purchased by the occupier and on the legal rights of the occupiers of houses previously owned by the local council on the ownership of their homes in relation to their feudal superior. [30664]

Mr. Robertson *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The legal position is unclear following a decision of the Court of Session on 3 March 1995 which indicated that the right to buy does not prevail over rights of pre-emption of feudal superiors. That decision, however, did not deal with any other feudal rights and did not address the question of whether the superior could exercise a right of irritancy in respect of past right-to-buy sales in contravention of a right of pre-emption.

The need for clarification of the law to protect the rights of purchasers is being considered.

Research Projects

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many research projects were commissioned by the Scottish Office for 1993–94 and 1994–95. [31890]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* The Scottish Office commissioned 706 research projects in 1993–94 and 712 in 1994–95.

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will name the companies, and where they are based, which were commissioned by the Scottish Office to carry out research projects in 1993–94, 1994–95 and from April 1995; what research project each company was commissioned to carry out in each period; and how much each research company was paid for each project in each period. [31893]

Mr. Robertson *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* Information is not readily available in the form requested. Where appropriate, details of research projects, and those commissioned to undertake them, are published, for example in the Scottish Office central research unit's "Register of Research", a copy of which is available in the Library.

Most of the Scottish Office's research is commissioned with specialist research institutes or university departments rather than with companies.

Child Care

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proposals he has for future funding of out-of-school care projects and development work *(a)* where there is Scottish Enterprise involvement and *(b)* on any other basis. [32233]

Mr. Kynoch *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* The current out-of-school child care initiative will continue to be delivered in Scotland by the enterprise network until March 1996. As in England, any further proposals will be made in light of the final evaluation of the scheme.

Further Education (Capital Equipment)

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what examination is made of the system for disbursing capital equipment moneys following their transfer from individual further education colleges to the enterprise companies; to whom decisions on disbursement are accountable; what provision is made for publicising disbursement decisions; and what opportunities arise for students and other interested parties to influence the process. [32112]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* No funds have been transferred from individual further education colleges to local enterprise companies for disbursement to colleges for the acquisition of capital equipment.

Blood Supplies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of blood supplies in each region was supplied to private hospitals in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will indicate the number of units involved. [32991]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* The Scottish national blood transfusion service supplies blood and blood products from five regional transfusion centres. The latest information available about the supply of blood to non-NHS hospitals is for 1993–94. This is as follows:

	Blood product units
North RTC	0
North East RTC	408
East RTC	169
South East RTC	637
West RTC	1,975
Total	3,189

The units issued to non-NHS hospitals represented less than 1 per cent. of total issues by regional transfusion centres during this period.

NHS (Moneys in Trust)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the value of moneys held in trust by individual NHS trusts and health authorities. [32973]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* This information is not held centrally.

NATIONAL HERITAGE

Kensington Palace (Tours)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage who organises and sets the admission prices of summer evening tours of Kensington palace; and who receives the proceeds. [32945]

Mr. Sproat: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has statutory responsibility for the funding, management and presentation to the public of the state apartments and royal ceremonial dress collection at Kensington palace. Day-to-day responsibility for admission prices, the receipt of the proceeds and opening arrangements is delegated to the chief executive of Historic Royal Palaces, which is an executive agency of the Department of National Heritage.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his Department, their purpose and their cost. [32483]

Mr. Sproat: Since it was formed in April 1992, neither my Department nor the Royal Parks agency has commissioned any outside advertising agencies. However, the Historical Royal Palaces agency regularly undertakes advertising campaigns to promote the palaces for which it is responsible. The costs since April 1992 are as follows:

1992–93: £205,089

1993–94: £717,000

1994–95: £548,000

The specific advertising campaigns, their purpose and individual costs are broken down as follows:

1992–93

(i) TOWER OF LONDON

Purpose: To increase the number of visitors.

Cost: £92,000

(ii) HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Purpose: To increase the number of visitors.

Cost: £113,089

1993–94

(i) TOWER OF LONDON

Purpose: To increase the number of visitors.

Cost: £355,000

(ii) HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Purpose: To increase the number of visitors.

To increase the ratio of domestic visitors to overseas visitors.

To change the perceptions of Hampton Court palace to a place where history comes to life.

Cost: £262,000

(iii) CORPORATE SALES PROMOTION

Purpose: To launch the royal pass entitling visitors to entry to all palaces for £15.

Cost: £100,000

1994–95

(i) TOWER OF LONDON

Purpose: To increase the number of visitors.

To launch the re-presentation of the Crown jewels.

Cost: £370,000

(ii) HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Purpose: To increase the number of visitors.

Cost: £92,000

(iii) CORPORATE SALES PROMOTION

Purpose: To consolidate further the royal pass and develop a multi-lingual joint Palaces leaflet.

Cost: £86,000

Capital Spending

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what is the expected capital spending figure for his Department for 1994–95; and what is the latest budget figure. [30878]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* The information requested is as follows:

£ million

Department of National Heritage	*1994–95*	*1995–96*
Central Government's own expenditure	167	188
Public Corporations' expenditure	155	130
Local authority expenditure	261	—
Total	583	318

There are no figures currently available giving the departmental breakdown of planned local authority capital expenditure in 1995–96. The total capital expenditure 1995–96 will not therefore be comparable with the figure for 1994–95.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Sheep Scab

Mr. David Nicholson: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what representations he has received, since 1 January, asserting that the incidence of sheep scab has increased since compulsory dipping was discontinued, and if he will make a statement on his policy towards *(a)* making sheep scab a notifiable disease, *(b)* making dipping compulsory on farms where scab has been found and *(c)* making testing for scab compulsory on neighbouring farms. [30271]

Mrs. Browning: The Department has received a number of representations on the subject of sheep scab since 1 January.

In response to claims early last year that the incidence of sheep scab had increased, we carried out our own investigations in March 1994 into the level of scab at markets and in flocks treated by private veterinary surgeons. Although the results were not conclusive, they indicated that the number of infested sheep had increased. In co-operation with the industry, we conducted a publicity campaign to encourage farmers to treat their sheep for scab. In addition, the official veterinary presence at markets was significantly increased; infested animals are being withdrawn from sale and treated and the owners risk prosecution under animal welfare legislation.

A second state veterinary service survey has indicated that the numbers of sheep affected by scab sent to markets and sales has declined. This is an encouraging sign and should help to reduce the spread of scab.

However, reports from practising veterinary surgeons suggest that the number of infected farms is increasing. The veterinary surgeons also suggest that some farmers are not treating their sheep strictly in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. This can lead to the temporary suppression of the disease which then re-establishes itself later.

The full results of this years survey and those from last year are as follows:

	1994	*1995*
Market visits		
Number	869	867
Batches with suspected scab	177	47
Per cent. visits where scab found	20	5
Serious welfare cases	13	6
Other outbreaks of scab found by SVS		
Number	53	34
Outbreaks of scab known to private veterinary surgeons		
Number	254	595

The Government are concerned at the increasing spread of sheep scab and accordingly propose to carry out a publicity campaign to encourage good management practices, including the proper use of the available treatments. The newly established Meat Hygiene Service will be watching out for signs of scab infestation in sheep arriving at slaughterhouses and will report any welfare cases to the state veterinary service for follow-up action

on the farms concerned. Where necessary, appropriate action will be taken under farm animal welfare legislation. We will also be continuing our increased surveillance of sheep sales and taking follow-up action in connection with any welfare problems associated with scab infestation.

In addition to the initiatives above, I have asked officials to consider what other options may be available for dealing with the disease.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for what reason the policy of compulsory sheep dipping was changed, and if he will make a statement. [31246]

Mrs. Browning: The decision to remove statutory controls for sheep scab, which included compulsory dipping, was mainly based on the failure of these arrangements to eradicate the disease and the view that they were unlikely to do so in the future. Given also the substantial demands placed on the state veterinary service and local authorities, the lack of EC interest in the disease—which would make it difficult to prevent scab being reintroduced again on imported animals—and the lack of commitment shown by a substantial minority of farmers, it was decided that Government involvement in the control of sheep scab could no longer be justified.

This does not mean that the Government are no longer concerned about the threat posed by scab and I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Nicholson).

Mr. Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the recorded levels of sheep scab in each of the last five years. [31244]

Mrs. Browning: The numbers of confirmed cases of sheep scab in Great Britain in 1991 and 1992 were as follows:

1991: 116

1992 (to 30 June): 94

The collation of official records on the number of outbreaks of sheep scab was discontinued after deregulation in 1992.

The official veterinary presence at sheep markets was increased between 1 September 1994 and 3 March 1995, during which time suspected sheep scab was detected in 49 out of 2,878 market visits. In total, 364 animals had to be withdrawn from sale and treated under the Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 and a further 210 animals with suspected sheep scab were sent direct to slaughter.

For further information on the amount of scab discovered during surveys conducted by the state veterinary service in March 1994 and March 1995, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Nicholson).

Voluntary Oranisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994—95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31314]

Mr. Baldry: The information required to answer is not held centrally and can be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Milk Testing

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will consider establishing a national body to check standards of milk testing for British farmers. [31670]

Mr. Baldry: The Intervention Board executive agency, which is responsible for administering milk quotas throughout the United Kingdom, has already commissioned the Central Science Laboratory to check standards at laboratories which are approved to carry out butterfat tests on milk.

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will consider establishing national calibration standards in respect of testing for butter fat, protein and total bacteria content in milk. [31668]

Mr. Baldry: The suggestion that a simple source for calibration standards be specified, whilst acceptable in principle to the Intervention Board executive agency and to those laboratories participating in milk testing, may be difficult to prescribe. It would, effectively, prevent those organisations currently supplying such standards from continuing to do so. In the current climate of deregulation within the United Kingdom dairy industry such action would need to be considered carefully and justified in terms of a clearly identified need.

Tuberculosis (Cattle)

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what advice he has received on the reason for the change in the number of positive tuberculosis tests for cattle in the last five years. [31736]

Mrs. Browning: There has been an increased incidence of disease and approximately 90 per cent. of the cattle tuberculosis herd breakdowns in the south-west of England are attributed to infection by badgers after detailed epidemiological investigations. The Department is already carrying out research into ways of avoiding transmission of disease from badgers to cattle and is co-operating with university departments on studies on the effects of badger removal operations on the badger population and their impact on the subsequent spread of disease within the badger population.

Integrated Administration and Control System

Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what representations he has received on the proposals to amend the system of field numbering on maps which are to accompany forms associated with the integrated administration and control system. [32362]

Mr. Baldry: A range of farming industry organisations has been consulted on proposals which, if adopted, would involve changing the system of issuing field numbers, for the purpose of applications under the integrated administration and control system. Officials are considering comments from those who have responded and meeting with organisations where appropriate.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food whether his Department has completed the exercise of standardising maps which are to accompany forms associated with the integrated administration and control system. [32361]

Mr. Baldry: My Department is not carrying out an exercise of standardising maps. However, a wide range of checks is carried out on applications under the integrated administration and control system. These include detailed checks of field data and maps submitted in support of area aid applications.

Bull Calves

Mr. Keen: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what action he is taking to stimulate the domestic market for bull calves; if he is actively considering encouraging the establishment of alternative rearing systems or introducing tighter animal welfare systems; what help is being offered to United Kingdom farmers to assist in establishing a realistic animal friendly alternative that would help to end the continental trade in live animals for veal production; and if he will make a statement. [32425]

Mrs. Browning: The United Kingdom has since 1990 banned close confinement systems of veal rearing, and we are now working hard to achieve agreement to raise the less exacting minimum standards which apply at European Union level.

Only a minority of bull calves born in the UK are exported live. None-the-less a move from live exports to the value added business of producing meat in the UK makes sense in the long run. The Ministry is encouraging this through research into improving the quality of dairy bread beef, and work with the Meat and Livestock Commission to promote beef exports.

We are also funding a demonstration unit on welfare friendly veal at the ADAS research centre at Rosemaund, near Hereford. The aim of this unit, which opens later this month, is to show how to produce veal under systems which conform to the UK's high welfare standards.

Fishing Incidents

Mr. Cox: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many incidents have taken place between British fishing vessels and fishing vessels of other European Union countries in each of the last three years. [32672]

Mr. Baldry: Incidents between fishing vessels can take place in varying circumstances and are not necessarily reported to fishery protection vessels or to the fishery inspectorates. Comprehensive records of such incidents are not kept.

Fishing (Discussions)

Mrs. Bridget Prentice: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans he has to meet representatives of the fishing industry to discuss access to the Irish box and western waters. [31160]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* My predecessor met representatives of the fishing industry on a number of occasions recently at which this issue was discussed, and I propose to do so again as the need arises.

Meat Levies

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, pursuant to his answer of 26 June, *Official Report*, column *528*, on meat levies, what were the total levies for *(a)* sheep and *(b)* calves in each year since 1990; and what would be the total revenue raised for the Meat and Livestock Commission for *(a)* sheep, and *(b)* calves and *(c)* other in each year since 1992 if animal exporters had paid the levies on each animal exported in each year since 1992. [32388]

Mr. Baldry *[holding reply sent on 6 July 1995]:* The information requested is as follows.

(1) Total levy receipts

£ million

	(a) sheep	*(b) calves*
1989–90	8.6	0.02
1990–91	9.8	0.02
1991–92	10.1	0.02
1992–93	10.0	0.03
1993–94	9.8	0.03

(2) Total levy due

£ million

	(a) Sheep	*(b) Calves*	*(c) Others*
1991–92	10.2	0.02	19.0
1992–93	10.3	0.03	18.7
1993–94	10.1	0.03	19.8

HEALTH

NHS Loto

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of state for Health (1) what rules govern the use of the letters NHS in publicity for private companies' projects; [31353]

(2) what discussions have taken place between his Department and the organisers of NHS Loto to discuss *(a)* the distribution of any funds generated, *(b)* advising on the re-launch of the NHS Loto and *(c)* departmental approval of the project; and if he will make a statement; [31354]

(3) what permission was sought from his Department to use the letters NHS to promote the NHS Loto. [31352]

Mr. Sackville: The use of the letters NHS is not the subject of any express provisions in legislations.

NHS Loto is run by the registered charity National Hospital Trust and operated on its behalf by Pascal and Co. The trustees of the National Hospital Trust sought the endorsement of Department of Health Ministers prior to the relaunch of NHS Loto on 1 June 1995. This was not forthcoming.

Centre for Epilepsy

Sir Donald Thompson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the future of the Centre for Epilepsy. [31862]

Mr. Bowis: I have the personal written assurance of the chairman of the King's Healthcare national health service trust, Mr. Stanley Kalms, that the trust will encourage the development of specialised multidisciplinary treatment and care for people with epilepsy and will help the centre to establish itself as the focus for this.

At present, the Centre for Epilepsy is established at the Maudsley hospital site. Owing to the current reorganisation of neurosciences services at the Maudsley, the centre has recently moved into temporary accommodation. The chief executive of the trust, has assured me at a meeting on 26 June, that the centre will return to permanent accommodation within the Maudsley hospital during November this year.

Research Grants

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which members of *(a)* the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy, *(b)* the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food and *(c)* the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food receive research grants from his Department. [32419]

Mr. Sackville: Only Dr. S. Bingham and Professor M. Marmont of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy have research contracts funded through the Department's policy research programme or the nutrition research programme.

Sensible Drinking

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the findings of the review of the "Sensible Drinking" message; and if he will make a statement. [32815]

Mr. Bowis: I expect the interdepartmental group on sensible drinking to complete its work around the end of the year.

Nutrition Task Force

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what is the estimated budget for 1995–96 and 1996–97 for the nutrition task force; [32720]

(2) what future changes are planned for the nutrition task force and if he will make a statement. [32719]

Mr. Sackville: The nutrition task force, which was set up in November 1992 to bring together relevant interests and prepare a programme of action to achieve the diet and nutrition targets in "The Health of the Nation" White Paper, published its programme in March 1994. The remit of the task force was extended by a further year to set in train the implementation of the programme. It will make a final report to Ministers by the end of the year. The task force's remit to develop the programme will then have been fulfilled. Action set in hand as a result of the task force's work will be completed by the relevant sectors within the wider community.

The nutrition task force does not have a specific budget. Expenses are paid to members under normal rules. A total of £250,000 has been allocated for expenditure in 1995–96 on publicity arising from the nutrition task force programme. A similar bid has been made for 1996–97.

Child Abuse

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the local authority children's homes in England and Wales where child sex abuse is known to have taken place in each of the last three years. [32859]

Mr. Bowis: This information is not available centrally.

Treatments

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action he proposes to ensure that additional costs of metered water for essential water intensive health treatments, including hydro-therapy and renal dialysis, do not fall on *(a)* the health service and *(b)* patients. [32711]

Mr. Sackville: Since April 1994, local health authorities have been responsible for meeting the costs of water used in the course of home haemodialysis by patients whose water supply is metered by their local water company. I am not aware of other conditions which require equivalent volumes of water for treatment provided at home. These arrangements have been introduced relatively recently; there are no plans to review them at this stage.

Nutrition Monitoring

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies on monitoring nutrition his Department plans to commission over the next two years. [32721]

Mr. Sackville: My Department plans to commission this year, jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the national diet and nutrition survey of children aged four to 18 years.

Elderly Patients, Wandsworth

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many national health service beds in hospitals in the London borough of Wandsworth are available for the nursing of elderly patients. [33107]

Mr. Bowis: Information is not available centrally in the form requested.

Performance Tables

Sir James Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of *(a)* the Dorset Healthcare national health service trust and *(b)* the national health service as a whole; and if he will make a statement. [33699]

Mr. Malone: I would like to congratulate the Dorset Healthcare trust on its excellent performance in the national health service performance tables for the second year running. Not only has the trust improved its performance against the existing performance tables indicators but the new indicators introduced this year show that 100 per cent. of patients are seen in out-patient

clinics within 13 weeks of referral by their general practitioner. Copies of the NHS performance tables are available in the Library.

The tables show yet another year of achievement for the NHS as a whole. Performance has improved so that:

93 per cent. of patients are now assessed within five minutes in accident and emergency departments;

88 per cent. of patients are now seen within 30 minutes of their appointment times;

over half of hospitals admitted 95 per cent. or more of patients in the eight main surgical specialties within 12 months of going on a waiting list;

The figures for day surgery also show substantial improvement. Over 60 per cent. of arthroscopies and laparoscopies, more than a quarter of inguinal hernia repairs and a third of cataracts are now done on a day surgery basis. This is a better option for many patients who prefer not to have to stay in hospital overnight.

Information is included in the tables for the first time on the waiting time to see a consultant following referral by a GP:

82 per cent. of patients are seen within 13 weeks of referral;

and

95 per cent. within 26 weeks of referral.

These figures suggest that the NHS is well on course to meet the new patients charter standard, introduced on 1 April this year, of nine out of 10 patients being seen within 13 weeks and all patients being seen within 26 weeks.

The tables also show that 64 per cent. of GP practices have produced charters for their patients.

This is an impressive record of achievement. Trusts have earned more than 3,000 five-star ratings this year. But not every trust has performed well on every indicator and action is already under way to secure even better performance next year.

Community Psychiatric Nurses

Ms Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many whole-time equivalent community psychiatric nurses were working in the NHS in each year since 1992; and how many of these CPNs have received training to implement the proposed power of supervised discharge. [32243]

Mr. Sackville: The number of whole-time equivalent qualified, unqualified and "other" nursing staff—excluding agency—working in the community psychiatric nursing area of work in the national health service hospital and community health services in each year since 1992 is as follows:

1992: 4,210

1993: 4,320

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten whole-time equivalents.
2. Agency staff are excluded.
3. Figures are for England as at 30 September each year.
4. 1993 is the latest year for which figures are available.

Source:

PD(STATS)B Non-Medical Workforce Census

Information on nursing staff in the community psychiatric area of work who have undertaken training to implement the proposed power of supervised discharge is not available centrally.

Contracts (EDS)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the contracts his Department has with the computer company EDS. [33175]

Mr. Sackville: The Department has no contracts with EDS.

Committee Membership

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who are the present members of *(a)* the Committee on the Safety of Medicines, *(b)* the Medicines Commission and *(c)* the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment; by whom they are employed; what consultancies or directorships each holds with chemical or pharmaceutical companies; and which are engaged in research on behalf of chemical or pharmaceutical companies. [32899]

Mr. Sackville: The information will be placed in the Library.

Junior Doctors

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on his Department's change of policy regarding the place of registrars' and senior registrars' contracts following the abolition of regional health authorities. [33227]

Mr. Malone: Subject to formal negotiation with the medical profession and following the abolition of regional health authorities, contracts for registrars and senior registrars will be held by national health service trusts with deans of postgraduate medicine overseeing their educational needs. The detail of the new arrangements has yet to be agreed but it will need to ensure that continuity and quality of training programmes are protected under the new arrangements.

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures will be introduced to aid junior doctors within training rotations to negotiate new contracts every six months with NHS trusts; and if he will make a statement. [33231]

Mr. Malone: Detailed arrangements for the transfer of junior doctors' contracts to national health service trusts are being discussed with the medical profession. These discussions include a package of safeguards. The six elements of this are:

national terms and conditions of service with a degree of local flexibility;

a "lead trusts" scheme to ensure that doctors on rotations are not required to strike new employment contracts with each new posting;

continuity of service via the Health Authorities Bill, now secured;

a network of employment, educational and service-level contracts tying the deans, trusts and junior doctors into a relationship designed to safeguard educational standards and appropriate levels of training;

a review of the proportion of junior doctors' salary costs funded by the deans; and

additional training of trust personnel staff to avoid some of the problems currently arising when trusts manage house officer and senior house officer contracts.

Mr. Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he will take to ensure that NHS trusts will honour agreements on nationally negotiated packages for junior doctors with special reference to the new deal which limits their hours of work. [33226]

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are planned to ensure that NHS trusts implement national agreements limiting junior doctors' hours of work when NHS trusts are responsible for their contracts; and if he will make a statement. [33230]

Mr. Malone: National terms and conditions of service continue to apply to junior doctors including the limits on junior doctors' hours under the new deal which are set out in "Terms and Conditions of Service for Hospital Medical and Dental Staff (England and Wales)". All national health service trusts are required to comply with these limits.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many additional staff will be required in each NHS trust to manage junior doctors' contracts when their contracts are held at trust level; and if he will make a statement. [33229]

Mr. Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what will be the cost nationally of each NHS trust personnel department employing at least one additional member of staff to deal with junior doctors' contracts in the event of their being transferred to trust level after the abolition of regional health authorities. [33234]

Mr. Malone: It is for individual trusts to make decisions about staff numbers.

Mr. Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made as to whether NHS trusts' personnel departments have staff with sufficient experience and knowledge to manage the complexities of junior doctors' contracts. [33228]

Mr. Malone: We are considering what training is necessary to ensure that registrar and senior registrar contracts are managed effectively.

Contraceptives

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance he has given for the provision of Norplant free by family planning clinics. [33271]

Mr. Sackville: A full range of contraceptive services should be available to those who wish to use them. It is a matter for local health authorities to decide how best to use their resources to provide comprehensive and accessible services that meet the needs of local users.

NHS Pension Scheme

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what is the average amount contributed by the NHS to their pension fund prior to retirement of *(a)* female and *(b)* male doctors; [33237]

(2) what is the average amount paid in by comparable female and male doctors into the NHS pension scheme prior to retirement and the average amount female and male doctors receive in pension after retirement; [33236]

(3) for how many years female and male doctors have put the same contribution into NHS pension schemes; and for which years payments can be taken into account in calculation of widowers' pensions. [33272]

Mr. Malone: National health service employers contribute 4 per cent. of pensionable earnings to the national health service pension scheme in respect of their employees. Female and male doctors contribute 6 per cent. of their pensionable earnings to the scheme and contribution rates in every year have been the same for both sexes. Information is not available centrally about the amounts contributed, and average pension received, by staff groups. Widowers' benefits are based upon service accrued after 6 April 1988 unless cover for earlier service has been purchased.

NHS Appointees (Payments)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information is held by his Department or the NHS executive on expenditure on trust board and health authority member's allowances. [33249]

Mr. Malone: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Don Valley (Mr. Redmond) on 16 February, *Official Report*, column *808*, which gives the latest information available centrally about payments to members of health authorities and national health service trust boards.

Tendering

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, column *259*, what information his Department or the NHS executive holds on the costs associated with *(a)* market testing and *(b)* compulsory competitive tendering in the NHS. [33158]

Mr. Sackville: Information is held on the value of a large number of individual service contracts which have been notified to the national health service executive by NHS trusts and other Units. Individual contract values are not released except with the prior agreement of the two parties concerned. It is not yet possible to access the information on contract values by numbers above or below a given size without detailed scrutiny of the full list of contracts.

NHS Contracts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations entered into contracts with either *(a)* Touche Ross or *(b)* Arthur Anderson Chartered Accountants in the period from December 1993. [33145]

Mr. Sackville: The information is not available centrally.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital

Mr. Sedgemore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he is prepared to examine proposals to keep St. Bartholomew's hospital at Smithfield open. [33504]

Mr. Malone: The recent decision on the future of St. Bartholomew's hospital was right for patients and for the future of hospital services in east London. Alternative options for the future of the Smithfield site are currently being examined by a task force chaired by Sir Ronald Grierson.

Pay Review Body

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he has appointed the new chair of the Pay Review Body for Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors; and if he will list the criteria for selection. [33270]

Mr. Malone: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave her on 4 July, *Official Report*, column *102*, on this subject. An appointment will be made in due course by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Hip Replacement Operations

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is his estimate of the percentage of hip replacement operations that required *(a)* one revision and *(b)* more than one revision in each of the past 12 years. [29268]

Mr. Sackville *[holding answer 21 June 1995]:* The information is not available in the form requested. The information in the table shows the proportion of the total number of hip operations in each of the last six years that were revisions. Comparable figures for earlier years are not available.

	Hip operations	*Revisions*	*Percentage revisions*
1988–89	46,490	2,882	6.2
1989–90	50,790	3,555	7.0
1990–91	50,725	3,449	6.8
1991–92	55,642	3,895	7.0
1992–93	57,437	3,963	6.9
1993–94	58,439	3,740	6.4

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics—Estimate from 25 per cent. sample.
Hip operation codes—shortlist code WC1 and WC3.
OPCS4R codes W37–W39, W46–W48.
Revision codes—37.3, 38.3, 39.3 46.3, 47.3 and 48.3.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31306]

Sir John Wheeler: The information requested is as follows:

	Voluntary sector organisations		*Voluntary sector organisations*	
Year	*Paid grants*	*Value of grant* £	*Awarded contracts*	*Value of contract* £
1993–94	1,342	77,597,234	326	68,086,243
1994–95	1,373	71,404,810	321	69,608,550

Some payments due under the letters of offer were made in the same financial year.

Dungiven Bypass

Mr. William Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he now expects work to begin on the Dungiven bypass. [32447]

Mr. Moss: The Dungiven bypass is not included in the Department's current five-year major road works programme.

Bridge Strengthening

Mr. William Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what sums have been expended to date on the bridge strengthening programme; and how long it will be and at what cost before the programme is complete. [32446]

Mr. Moss: In the last three years, approximately £13.2 million has been expended on the bridge assessment and strengthening programme. Information prior to 1992–93 is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The provision allocation for the 1995–96 financial year is £5 million.

It is planned that the assessment programme will be completed by 31 December 1998. The cost and the timing of the completion of the associated strengthening works will depend on the volume of work identified and the availability of finance.

Limavady Bypass

Mr. William Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he now expects work to begin on the construction of the Limavady bypass. [32448]

Mr. Moss: Work on the first stage of the Limavady bypass is due to commence in the 1997–98 financial year, subject to the availability of finance.

Further Education

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of capital expenditure on education has been devoted to further education in each of the past 10 years. [32904]

Mr. Ancram: The information is as follows:

Year	*Percentage*
1984–85	3
1985–86	3
1986–87	4
1987–88	5
1988–89	9
1989–90	10
1990–91	9
1991–92	6
1992–93	8
1993–94	7

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish the proposed five-year building programme for further education colleges in Northern Ireland. [32906]

Mr. Ancram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 June, *Official Report*, column *466*.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which further education colleges he has visited; and if he will make a statement on the physical condition of those colleges. [32903]

Mr. Ancram: I have visited Fermanagh, Omagh, Limavady, North-West, Magherafelt, North-East, Upper Bann and East Tyrone colleges.

The physical condition of these colleges varies from excellent to some instances where provision is poor.

Belfast Institute of Further Education

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will visit the Ormeau road premises of the Belfast Institute of Further Education; and what actions he proposes to take to bring its facilities up to modern standards. [32902]

Mr. Ancram: I always try to respond positively to invitations to visit schools and colleges.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 June, *Official Report*, column *466*.

Emergency Legislation

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he intends to start a full-scale independent review into the emergency legislation; and what will be its timetable. [32692]

Sir John Wheeler: The timing of the independent review of the continuing need for the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1991 and the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 has yet to be decided. The Government will take a number of factors into account before initiating the review and deciding upon its timetable. These will include assessing the security situation in Northern Ireland to see if confidence in a lasting peace has been clearly established.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if it is his policy that internment should not feature in the proposed successor legislation to the Emergency Powers Act 1964. [32693]

Sir John Wheeler: Provision for the detention of terrorists—in section 34 of and schedule 3 to the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1991—are currently not in force. The Government will carefully consider the continuing need for such provisions in the context of preparing the successor legislation to replace the existing Act which expires next year.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussion he has had with the Chief Constable of the RUC on the desirability of using Police and Criminal Evidence Act powers rather than emergency legislation wherever possible; and what was the response. [32695]

Sir John Wheeler: Discussions between Ministers and the Chief Constable on security matters remain confidential. However, it is hoped that a changing and improving security situation will mean that the use of the powers contained in the emergency legislation will continue to decrease to the point where they are no longer needed.

Detainees

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were held in each holding centre in each month of 1994 and each month of 1995 to date. [32694]

Sir John Wheeler: The information requested is as follows:

1994	*Castlereagh*	*Gough*	*Strand Road*
January	128	37	4
February	114	47	3
March	129	35	0
April	132	22	7
May	118	32	4
June	150	15	7
July	111	17	2
August	99	39	13
September	47	9	5
October	56	6	3
November	51	13	3
December	36	9	1

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many detentions under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1985 were made in each month of 1994 and each month of 1995 to date; and for what lengths of time detainees were held. [32697]

Sir John Wheeler: The information requested is as follows:

	Less than 24 hrs	*24 hrs–47 hrs 59 mins*	*48 hrs–71 hrs 59 mins*	*72 hrs–119 hrs 59 mins*	*120 hrs–167 hrs 59 mins*
1994					
January	24	99	3	43	0
February	17	101	10	26	7
March	20	110	3	31	2
April	27	77	4	29	24
May	30	55	7	58	4
June	42	96	7	22	5
July	43	69	3	14	1
August	25	89	5	27	5
September	8	44	2	7	0
October	10	54	1	0	0
November	10	55	0	0	2
December	14	32	0	0	0

	Less than 24 hrs	24 hrs–47 hrs 59 mins	48 hrs–71 hrs 59 mins	72 hrs–119 hrs 59 mins	120 hrs–167 hrs 59 mins
1995					
January	6	26	2	0	0
February	10	40	1	0	0
March	17	26	4	2	0
April	17	19	0	0	0
May	6	21	0	0	0

Figures for June 1995 are not yet available.

Diplock Courts

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals he has to phase in more trials with jury rather than continuing the use of Diplock courts over the coming year. [32698]

Sir John Wheeler: The Government have no plans to amend schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1991, which lists those substantive offences that are dealt with on indictment by the Crown court without a jury in accordance with section 10 of the Act. The future independent review of the legislation will address the continuing need for all aspects of counter-terrorist law.

Collegiate Court

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is his response to the proposal by the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights that consideration should be given to the establishment of a collegiate court pending full restoration of jury trials. [32699]

Sir John Wheeler: The Government are not presently persuaded that multi-judge courts are desirable to deal with scheduled offences. There is no evidence to show that a change to multi-judge courts would necessarily produce better justice, or significantly enhanced confidence in the court system. Any person convicted of a scheduled offence in a single-judge court has an automatic right of appeal to the Court of Appeal which itself comprises three judges, and there is an important safeguard in that the trial judge is required to produce a written judgment setting out his reasons for any conviction.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which projects have been selected by the Water Executive for the private finance initiative; what is the estimated cost of these projects; when they were due to go out to tender; and what is the estimated delay caused by these projects being included in the private finance initiative. [32823]

Mr. Moss: The Water Executive has a major capital construction programme designed to ensure compliance with national standards, incorporating those of the EC, over the next 10 years. This programme has significantly increased the executive's capital demands and it is appropriate that we explore the use of private finance in this context. It is a normal method of funding infrastructure projects internationally, as well as in the United Kingdom, and I am anxious that the potential for its application to the Water Executive's capital programme should be tested.

Government recognise that using private finance must provide genuine value for money. I have therefore agreed that, as a first step the Water Executive should select two pilot schemes to test the viability of the private sector financing, building, owning and operating such facilities on a long-term basis. In order to assist with this work a consortium comprising Mott MacDonald Ltd., and NatWest Markets have been appointed to act as a manager and financial advisor of the pilot scheme.

I am presently considering the final selection of the schemes to be included in the pilot project. They will probably have a combined capital value of over £20 million and I will announce the details in due course.

I do not anticipate that the private finance initiative will cause any significant delays in these schemes.

Students

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of Northern Ireland domiciled students leave to study at higher education institutions in Great Britain; and what percentage return to work in Northern Ireland. [32908]

Mr. Ancram: In 1993–94, the latest year for which information is available, 24 per cent. of all Northern Ireland domiciled new entrants to higher education left to study at institutions in Great Britain, including 34 per cent. of full-time undergraduate new entrants. In the same year, 11 per cent. of Northern Ireland domiciled first-degree graduates from Great Britain universities returned to Northern Ireland to take up employment.

Electronic Surveillance

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he proposes to implement electronic surveillance of interviews with suspects in holding centres; and what form this will take. [32700]

Sir John Wheeler: The Government have said that they will give consideration to the introduction of an electronic recording scheme for the police offices, in the context of the successor legislation to the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1991 if it still appears necessary to do so in the light of the developing security situation.

Holding Centres

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals he has to close any holding centres. [32701]

Sir John Wheeler: None at present.

Coroners Courts

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what response he has had from the Lord Chancellor to the recommendations by the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights on the reform of coroners courts in Northern Ireland. [32702]

Sir John Wheeler: In Northern Ireland, coroners courts and inquest procedures are the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor. The Lord Chancellor has confirmed to the Secretary of State that he has no present plans to change the current system of inquests in Northern Ireland.

Forensic Science Laboratory

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals there are for the future use of the site of the former forensic science laboratory at Newtownbreda; when he expects to make a decision; and if he will make a statement. [32994]

Sir John Wheeler: The former site at Newtownbreda of the Northern Ireland forensic science laboratory is no longer required by Government. In accordance with standing policy it will be sold and it is intended to arrange a public auction for this purpose as soon as possible.

Human Rights

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals he has to cease using derogation under article 5(3) of the European convention on human rights and article 4 of the international covenant on civil and political rights. [32696]

Mr. Howard: I have been asked to reply.

Limited derogations under article 15 of the European convention on human rights and article 4 of the international covenant on civil and political rights cover detention by the police on the Secretary of State's authority under the prevention of terrorism Act of persons suspected of involvement in Northern Irish terrorism. The Government continue to keep the need for the derogations under review but it is too early to be satisfied that they could safely be withdrawn.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Family Credit

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list for each month since December 1994 the percentage of family credit claims taking five working days to be dealt with from the time of the claim being received by his Department and the figures for each subsequent day up to 30 working days. [31678]

Mr. Roger Evans: The administration of family credit is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Ms Liz Lynne, dated 6 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the clearance of claims to Family Credit.

I enclose, at annex A, a table which details the proportion of claims cleared within 5 days and up to 30 days, from December 1994 to the end of May 1995.

I hope you find this useful.

Annex A: Clearance times for Family Credit claims—December 1994—May 1995.

Days	*December 1994*	*January 1995*	*February 1995*	*March 1995*	*April 1995*	*May 1995*
5	31.1	33.6	39.2	42.6	45.6	42.2
6	33.7	36.0	42.3	46.3	50.7	46.9
7	38.6	40.0	48.4	52.9	53.3	50.9
8	40.9	42.3	51.3	55.8	56.2	57.5
9	43.4	45.1	54.2	58.8	62.7	61.0
10	49.5	50.3	60.7	65.0	65.8	65.5
11	52.8	52.6	63.7	67.9	70.5	67.4
12	58.1	56.3	68.4	72.4	72.7	69.4
13	60.6	58.4	70.6	74.2	74.7	74.7
14	63.0	60.4	72.6	76.1	78.8	76.7
15	67.9	64.3	76.7	79.7	80.7	79.2
16	70.1	66.0	78.4	81.3	83.5	80.5
17	73.7	68.9	80.9	83.6	84.6	82.0
18	75.1	70.4	82.1	84.6	85.7	82.0
19	76.5	72.0	83.3	85.6	87.9	85.2
20	79.7	74.9	85.7	87.7	89.0	86.3
21	81.1	76.2	86.7	88.6	90.4	87.9
22	83.4	78.5	88.3	90.1	91.0	88.7
23	84.4	79.6	89.0	90.7	91.7	89.7
24	85.3	80.9	89.7	91.3	93.0	91.4
25	87.3	83.0	91.2	92.5	93.5	92.0
26	88.4	83.9	91.8	93.1	94.4	92.8
27	89.8	85.6	92.6	93.9	94.7	93.3
28	90.3	86.4	93.0	94.2	95.1	93.9
29	90.8	87.2	93.4	94.6	95.8	94.8
30	92.1	88.8	94.3	95.3	96.1	95.1

The figures provided indicate the cumulative total percentage cleared in each working day.

Mortgage Interest

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what plans he has to commission further research into the exclusion of certain categories of borrowers from mortgage protection insurance policies. [32045]

Mr. Roger Evans: We have no such plans. However, we have already worked closely with the Association of British Insurers in developing guidelines to best practice which addresses many of the concerns about existing mortgage protection insurance. We continue to have on-going discussions with the Association of British Insurers and the Council of Mortgage Lenders and, as with any new policy, we will be monitoring carefully the changes to the provision of income support help with housing costs.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list the dates of all meetings held by himself or his Department with *(a)* the Association of British Insurers, *(b)* representatives of individual insurance companies and *(c)* other individuals connected with the insurance industry to discuss the reduction of mortgage interest protection by income support prior to the initial announcement of this policy. [32047]

Mr. Evans: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had meetings with the Association of British Insurers. Ministers and officials in this Department have had regular, and on-going, discussions with the Association of British Insurers, representatives of individual insurance

companies and other individuals connected with the insurance industry.

Habitual Residence Test

Mr. Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people were refused income support due to the habitual residence requirement in March; and how many of these were *(a)* British nationals, *(b)* European economic area nationals and *(c)* others. [32718]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information is in the table:

	British nationals	*EEA nationals*	*Others*	*Total*
March 1995	492	802	730	2,024

Note:
"Others" include asylum seekers who had the habitual residence test applied to them but were paid benefit under other provisions.

State Pension

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many *(a)* divorced and *(b)* widowed pensioners are receiving a full state pension based on their spouse's national insurance contribution record; and of these how many are also in receipt of (i) income support or (ii) other state benefits. [32074]

Mr. Heald *[pursuant to the reply, 3 July 1995, c. 82]:* The information given was incorrect. The correct information is as follows:

The figures for widowed and divorced pensioners are not available separately. The total number in March 1993 was 1,783,000. It is not possible to identify how many of these people were receiving income support or other benefits.

Source:
Retirement Pension Statistics Biannual inquiry 31 March 93.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many women are in receipt of the married women's pension of £35.25; and what is the Government's estimate of how this figure will change over the next 10 years. [32075]

Mr. Heald *[pursuant to the reply, 3 July 1995, c. 83]:* The information given was incorrect. The correct information is as follows: the number of women in receipt of the married woman's pension of £35.25 at 31 March 1994 is 1,905,140.

An estimate of how this figure will change over the next 10 years is not available. However, over the next 10 years the total of category BL and ABL pensioners is likely to remain approximately stable. Within this group the numbers with category ABL will rise and the numbers with category BL will fall.

In the longer term, due to the effects of home responsibilities protection and the abolition of the married women's reduced rate option, more women will become entitled to a category A pension at over 60 per cent. The numbers with category A pensions will rise and the numbers with category BL and ABL pensions will fall.

Note:
Category BL pension is payable to a married woman on her husband's contributions at up to 60 per cent. of the standard Category A rate, provided she and her husband have both reached pension age.
Category ABL Pension is payable to a married woman and is a combination of Category A and Category BL. Where a married woman's own Category A entitlement is less than 60 per cent. of the standard rate, the pension is supplemented up to that level with Category BL pension based on her husband's contributions.

Social Fund

Mr. Barnes: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many Benefits Agency district offices received increases in their budgets between 1 April 1994 and 31 March 1995 for *(a)* social fund loans and *(b)* community care grants. [32846]

Mr. Burt: All Benefit Agency districts received increases to their social fund budget allocations for both grants and loans at 1 April 1994. Details of the initial social fund budget allocations and additional allocations by district for the financial year 1994–95 are in the Library.

Income Support

Mr. Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to his answer of 27 April to the hon. Member for Plymouth, Sutton (Mr. Streeter), *Official Report,* column *641,* what progress has been made in implementing the joint statement of intent negotiated between his Department and the fuel and water industries concerning procedures for direct payment of fuel and water bills from income support. [32847]

Mr. Burt: The joint statement of intent aims to facilitate proper use of the direct payment scheme for fuel and water charges. Copies have been sent to fuel and water companies, the fuel and water regulators, and to all Benefits Agency district offices. It is for the Benefits Agency and the utility companies at local level to follow the agreed procedures.

State Pension Age

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security when he plans to increase the state pension age of women from 60 to 65 years. [33235]

Mr. Heald: Our proposal to move state pension age for women from 60 to 65 was set out in the White Paper "Equality in State Pension Age", Cm 2420, a copy of which is in the Library. The change will be phased in over a 10-year period, commencing April 2010.

Income Distribution

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the percentage contribution of social security to the incomes of those in the bottom 10 per cent. through to 50 per cent. of the income distribution, by decile. [33474]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Student Awards

Mr. Bryan Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will publish a table showing the latest available figures for the number of students in each local authority in England and Wales undertaking courses of further education aged *(a)* 16 to 18 years and *(b)* 19 years and over; and what proportion of these age groups was not in receipt of any discretionary award. [33146]

Mr. Paice: The number of students in each LEA in England who are undertaking further education *(a)* aged 16 to 18 years and *(b)* 19 years and over; and the estimated proportion of each of these age groups who do not receive an award under section 2 of the Education Act 1962, are shown in the following table.

Numbers of FE Students by home LEA showing proportion of students not receiving grants under section 2 of the 1962 Education Act

England 1993–94

LEA	Total Numbers of FE Students by LEA of Domicile		FE Students Not in Receipt of Section 2 Discretionary Awards Percentage of Age group	
	Aged 16–18	Aged 19+	Aged 16–18	Aged 19+
City of London	32	183	97	99
Camden	1,206	7,243	100	100
Greenwich	1,690	3,178	68	98
Hackney	2,654	11,757	72	99
Hammersmith	1,161	3,682	99	99
Islington	1,981	8,857	66	100
Kensington	798	6,306	46	99
Lambeth	2,463	7,107	100	100
Lewisham	1,987	5,014	71	96
Southwark	2,367	7,091	99	99
Tower Hamlets	2,579	3,879	49	99
Wandsworth	2,455	22,646	59	100
Westminster	1,061	4,424	100	96
Barking	1,296	1,539	45	91
Barnet	2,597	12,866	97	99
Bexley	2,187	2,267	92	94
Brent	2,759	7,422	100	98
Bromley	2,254	2,980	78	98
Croydon	2,766	4,065	73	99
Ealing	3,835	8,948	99	99
Enfield	2,819	9,124	79	100
Haringey	2,329	8,465	100	100
Harrow	3,657	8,772	100	100
Havering	2,623	3,622	62	92
Hillingdon	2,133	3,378	100	100
Hounslow	2,055	4,330	79	94
Kingston upon Thames	1,114	1,773	82	96
Merton	1,606	3,163	73	97
Newham	2,590	6,389	60	98
Redbridge	2,269	4,493	76	96
Richmond upon Thames	2,093	13,057	93	99
Sutton	1,658	8,480	96	99
Waltham Forest	2,027	4,756	79	98
Birmingham	11,063	26,389	87	95
Coventry	3,480	8,393	84	97
Dudley	4,501	10,368	92	99
Sandwell	3,180	6,283	98	98
Solihull	2,156	9,858	99	97
Walsall	2,295	4,483	94	95
Wolverhampton	2,641	7,249	98	100
Knowsley	1,752	3,342	68	88
Liverpool	3,524	13,603	71	94
St. Helens	2,189	5,057	74	97
Sefton	3,056	8,107	83	93
Wirral	2,806	11,579	78	96
Bolton	2,465	4,471	21	89
Bury	2,537	3,244	75	91
Manchester	3,883	11,004	38	87
Oldham	2,030	2,506	53	87
Rochdale	2,648	4,457	65	70
Salford	1,582	6,752	87	97
Stockport	1,892	4,223	46	88
Tameside	2,190	6,127	68	96
Trafford	2,645	8,870	79	98
Wigan	3,983	6,275	59	98
Barnsley	4,305	4,795	100	98
Doncaster	2,773	9,188	60	96
Rotherham	2,489	8,930	46	94
Sheffield	6,917	19,851	99	80
Bradford	5,111	21,833	99	96
Calderdale	2,100	4,489	95	97
Kirklees	4,402	14,692	35	94
Leeds	7,305	27,359	85	97
Wakefield	3,158	8,936	77	100
Gateshead	1,961	4,254	67	89
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,005	4,544	76	92
North Tyneside	1,583	3,364	58	81
South Tyneside	2,177	3,674	82	97
Sunderland	4,218	8,119	61	97
Avon	8,852	26,609	75	97
Bedfordshire	5,576	12,270	87	88
Berkshire	8,156	23,118	91	98
Buckinghamshire	6,101	9,123	94	99
Cambridgeshire	6,968	12,668	98	99
Cheshire	10,928	32,930	88	91
Cleveland	6,556	16,033	67	100
Cornwall	7,287	28,016	56	97
Cumbria	4,720	8,976	84	79
Derbyshire	11,911	19,509	83	100
Devon	11,833	15,624	83	99
Dorset	6,997	9,924	81	52
Durham	6,776	16,164	100	89
East Sussex	5,745	23,531	57	95
Essex	15,584	23,153	87	91
Gloucestershire	6,221	19,439	77	96
Hampshire	17,556	34,740	82	92
Hereford and Worcester	7,104	21,489	57	94
Hertfordshire	11,243	41,102	89	97
Humberside	9,808	19,952	80	93
Isle of Wight	1,282	3,636	100	100
Kent	15,222	16,060	55	75
Lancashire	19,921	59,776	61	99
Leicestershire	7,908	17,412	81	80
Lincolnshire	6,967	9,383	90	90
Norfolk	7,537	8,746	71	88
North Yorkshire	7,612	20,396	49	90
Northamptonshire	6,276	20,170	100	97
Northumberland	2,561	4,941	61	84
Nottinghamshire	10,789	43,615	84	98
Oxfordshire	5,973	13,010	99	98
Shropshire	4,786	17,041	93	97
Somerset	6,621	13,698	80	94
Staffordshire	11,865	25,914	90	99
Suffolk	6,490	22,790	90	97
Surrey	8,722	11,470	47	94
Warwickshire	5,871	15,716	100	100
West Sussex	6,824	11,063	45	96
Wiltshire	7,499	19,918	100	91
England total	492,317	1,205,682	78	94

16-year-olds

Mr. Bryan Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what are the latest available figures for *(a)* the number and *(b)* the percentage of 16-year-olds in full-time education in (i) school sixth forms, (ii) sixth form colleges and (iii) colleges of further education in each local education authority. [33147]

Mr. Paice: The number and percentage of 16-year-olds in full-time education in the 1993–94 academic year in England for each local education authority are shown in the table.

16-year-olds in full-time education
Student numbers and participation rate

Local Education Authority	Student numbers				Participation rate (percentage)			
	Further education institutes	Sixth form colleges	School sixth forms	Total	Further education institutes	Sixth form colleges	School sixth forms	Total
Inner London	6,258	1,254	8,628	16,140	29	6	39	74
Barking	302	0	658	960	20	0	44	65
Barnet	631	195	1,916	2,742	19	6	59	84
Bexley	681	19	1,094	1,794	28	1	45	74
Brent	748	125	1,100	1,973	27	5	40	72
Bromley	638	20	1,840	2,498	21	1	60	82
Croydon	834	1,019	1,068	2,921	25	30	31	86
Ealing	1,113	44	1,007	2,164	38	1	34	73
Enfield	696	44	1,517	2,257	25	2	55	82
Haringey	601	68	840	1,509	30	3	41	74
Harrow	1,329	158	451	1,938	55	7	19	81
Havering	838	717	562	2,117	31	27	21	79
Hillingdon	560	25	1,283	1,868	23	1	53	77
Hounslow	564	31	1,189	1,784	25	1	52	79
Kingston upon Thames	298	105	864	1,267	22	8	65	95
Merton	407	261	558	1,226	26	17	36	79
Newham	719	694	253	1,666	28	27	10	65
Redbridge	567	9	1,674	2,250	21	0	62	84
Richmond upon Thames	702	70	448	1,220	49	5	31	85
Sutton	418	20	1,090	1,528	24	1	62	87
Waltham Forest	492	788	330	1,610	23	36	15	74
Birmingham	3,006	1,483	3,725	8,214	26	13	32	70
Coventry	839	7	1,515	2,361	25	0	45	70
Dudley	1,485	371	176	2,032	45	11	5	62
Sandwell	905	303	570	1,778	29	10	18	56
Solihull	633	868	605	2,106	27	36	25	88
Walsall	523	1	1,419	1,943	17	0	47	65
Wolverhampton	587	20	1,353	1,960	21	1	47	69
Knowsley	494	32	226	752	27	2	12	41
Liverpool	675	16	2,613	3,304	13	0	52	66
St. Helens	413	420	576	1,409	20	20	27	67
Sefton	863	351	1,362	2,576	26	11	42	79
Wirral	459	460	1,808	2,727	12	12	46	69
Bolton	661	602	736	1,999	22	20	24	66
Bury	901	354	220	1,475	44	17	11	72
Manchester	1,200	1,019	911	3,130	25	22	19	66
Oldham	572	552	606	1,730	22	21	23	65
Rochdale	890	117	392	1,399	35	5	16	56
Salford	457	857	38	1,352	19	35	2	56
Stockport	503	1,555	303	2,361	15	47	9	71
Tameside	625	736	55	1,416	26	30	2	59
Trafford	813	95	660	1,568	33	4	27	65
Wigan	1,170	598	265	2,033	33	17	8	58
Barnsley	1,069	4	93	1,166	47	0	4	51
Doncaster	551	8	1,446	2,005	17	0	44	62
Rotherham	614	395	886	1,895	21	14	31	66
Sheffield	2,276	14	892	3,182	43	0	17	61
Bradford	835	1	2,821	3,657	14	0	46	60
Calderdale	428	107	1,046	1,581	20	5	48	73
Kirklees	1,149	744	1,052	2,945	25	16	23	65
Leeds	1,489	286	3,264	5,039	20	4	43	66
Wakefield	954	334	925	2,213	29	10	28	67
Gateshead	441	0	675	1,116	21	0	32	54
Newcastle upon Tyne	409	0	1,508	1,917	14	0	53	68
North Tyneside	363	392	744	1,499	17	19	36	72
South Tyneside	721	0	120	841	45	0	7	52
Sunderland	1,413	0	432	1,845	42	0	13	54
Avon	2,166	475	4,907	7,548	21	5	47	72
Bedfordshire	1,398	805	2,809	5,012	22	12	43	77
Berkshire	2,372	63	5,098	7,533	27	1	57	85
Buckinghamshire	1,509	3	4,595	6,107	18	0	56	74
Cambridgeshire	2,137	1,008	2,713	5,858	27	13	34	74
Cheshire	2,644	1,245	4,205	8,094	24	11	38	73
Cleveland	1,558	2,181	466	4,205	23	32	7	62
Cornwall/Isles of Scilly	2,831	0	1,437	4,268	52	0	27	79

16-year-olds in full-time education
Student numbers and participation rate

Local Education Authority	*Student numbers*				*Participation rate (percentage)*			
	Further education institutes	*Sixth form colleges*	*School sixth forms*	*Total*	*Further education institutes*	*Sixth form colleges*	*School sixth forms*	*Total*
Cumbria	1,088	340	2,206	3,634	20	6	40	66
Derbyshire	3,824	37	3,023	6,884	37	0	29	66
Devon	3,822	0	4,495	8,317	34	0	40	74
Dorset	2,245	0	3,411	5,656	33	0	50	83
Durham	1,858	389	1,660	3,907	27	6	24	57
East Sussex	1,645	1,426	2,364	5,435	24	21	35	80
Essex	5,287	2,362	5,343	12,992	30	13	30	74
Gloucestershire	1,743	1	2,852	4,596	29	0	47	76
Hampshire	5,955	5,291	1,901	13,147	34	30	11	75
Hereford and Worcester	1,917	968	3,224	6,109	23	12	39	75
Hertfordshire	2,864	96	7,111	10,071	25	1	62	88
Humberside	2,575	1,662	2,268	6,505	25	16	22	64
Isle of Wight	298	3	729	1,030	22	0	53	75
Kent	4,952	5	9,362	14,319	28	0	52	80
Lancashire	6,223	1,552	2,876	10,651	38	10	18	66
Leicestershire	1,997	1,417	4,339	7,753	19	13	40	72
Lincolnshire	2,218	105	2,433	4,756	33	2	36	71
Norfolk	2,439	495	3,041	5,975	30	6	37	73
North Yorkshire	2,071	842	3,213	6,126	26	11	40	77
Northamptonshire	1,678	2	3,568	5,248	24	0	51	75
Northumberland	507	0	1,811	2,318	14	0	50	64
Nottinghamshire	2,522	818	3,839	7,179	23	7	34	64
Oxfordshire	1,672	168	3,624	5,464	25	2	54	81
Shropshire	1,312	820	1,367	3,499	27	17	28	72
Somerset	2,241	410	1,727	4,378	39	7	30	77
Staffordshire	3,431	801	3,484	7,716	29	7	30	66
Suffolk	1,554	26	3,876	5,456	21	0	52	73
Surrey	2,386	2,133	4,785	9,304	21	19	42	81
Warwickshire	1,660	330	2,126	4,116	30	6	39	75
West Sussex	1,978	1,523	3,031	6,532	25	19	39	83
Wiltshire	2,493	2	2,288	4,783	38	0	35	73
England	145,852	48,572	192,015	386,439	27	9	36	72

Older Students Allowance

Mr. Bryan Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what plans she has to ensure that those students currently studying part-time access courses will be eligible for the older students' allowance after 1 September. [33151]

Mr. Paice: Students who are currently studying on full-time access courses will remain eligible for the older students' allowance if they undertake a follow-on course of higher education which begins on or after 1 September 1995. Students must be aged 26 or over at the start of their new course and meet the relevant earning threshold.

Health and Safety

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment, pursuant to his answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, column *282*, if he will give the date that the refined inspection rating system, to determine the level of priority of a workplace visit from a Health and Safety Executive inspector, is to be implemented; and if the new inspection rating system will be published. [32318]

Sir Paul Beresford: I have been asked to reply.

The refined inspection rating system has been in use in offices in the north-west region since 26 June 1995 and was implemented in offices in Wales on 3 July 1995. The system will be implemented in other offices in the near future, although dates have yet to be agreed.

There are no plans to publish details, because the system is an internal planning tool.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment, pursuant to his answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, column *281*, if he will define higher risk premises and low hazard, low risk premises. [32317]

Sir Paul Beresford: I have been asked to reply.

Health and Safety Executive inspectors use their professional judgment to assess the degree of hazard and risk posed to employees and the public when they visit premises. In the field operations division this assessment is formalised in the inspection rating system, which enables premises to be compared according to the assessed hazards and risks. "Higher risk premises" are those towards the top of this scale. "Low hazard, risk premises" are those at the lower end.

ENVIRONMENT

Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make it his policy to safeguard the future on a country-wide basis of the Leicestershire museums, arts and records service; and in what circumstances he will use his powers under section 21 of the Local Government Act 1992. [30669]

Sir Paul Beresford: The decision on how best to provide services for arts, museums and records must be for the authorities concerned. On the use of section 21 of the Local Government Act 1992, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Erith and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) by my right hon. Friend the Member for Hertfordshire, West (Mr. Jones) on 5 July, *Official Report*, columns *219-20.*

Homelessness

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many families with children aged 18 years or under were accepted as homeless in (i) York, (ii) North Yorkshire, (iii) Yorkshire and Humberside and (iv) England in each year since 1979. [31581]

Mr. Clappison: The available data relate to homeless households with dependent children in priority need for which local authorities accept responsibility to secure permanent accommodation under the homelessness provisions of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 and the Housing Act 1985. The table sets out the reported data for York: 1979 and 1980 data are not available. The table also gives the data readily available for North Yorkshire, Yorkshire and Humberside and England: returns are not submitted by all authorities and it would involve disproportionate cost to provide figures, including estimates for missing data, other than for the years shown.

	York	*North Yorks*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*England*
1981	310	—	—	—
1882	178	—	—	—
1983	128	—	—	—
1984	100	—	—	—
1985	138	—	—	—
1986	180	—	—	—
1987	[1]104	—	—	—
1988	132	—	—	—
1989	132	—	—	—
1990	211	—	—	84,120
1991	[2]103	[1]583	[1]5,220	88,950
1992	112	720	8,900	85,300
1993	80	580	8,150	76,390
1994	53	570	6,680	69,300

[1] April to December only.
[2] January to June and October to December only.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many people aged under 18 years were homeless *(a)* in 1988 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [32831]

Mr. Clappison: Data on the numbers of young people for which local authorities in England accept responsibility to secure permanent accommodation under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 Housing Act have been collected since the second quarter of 1991. The numbers accepted in the 12-month periods ending March 1992 and March 1995 were as follows:

	Homeless households in priority need with a vulnerable young person	*Young single people not in priority need*
1991–92	3,460	2,360
1994–95	3,600	2,060

Underground Car Parks

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answer of 6 June, *Official Report*, column *107*, if the research being undertaken into the reduction of the pollutants benzene and particulates with regard to ventilation in underground car parks takes into account their relationship with unleaded petrol and catalytic convertors. [32370]

Mr. Clappison: The research referred to in my hon. Friend's answer of 6 June is monitoring the actual levels of these pollutants found in car parks in use. Car park usage reflects the types of vehicles currently being driven, including vehicles using unleaded petrol and fitted with catalytic convertors.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his Department, their purpose and their cost. [32486]

Sir Paul Beresford: Figures are readily available for the past five financial years only. To go back further would involve disproportionate costs.

Campaign subjects and the advertising costs for each of the past five years are as follows:

	£
1990–91	
Nil	
1991–92	
Duty of care—waste disposal	680,873
1992–93	
Helping the earth—global warming Council tax Duty of care—waste disposal Flats above shops Right to buy Watch your waste week Eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)	5,965,992
1993–94	
Helping the earth—global warming Rents to mortgages DIY self ownership Environment roadshows	4,381,914
1994–95	
Wasting energy costs the earth Eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)	3,765,907

Thames Strategy

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what steps have been taken to encourage local authorities to adopt river-borne options for the transport of waste along the lines of the Government office for London's Thames strategy document; and how many London local authorities have contracted to move their waste by river rather than road. [32687]

Mr. Clappison: The advantages of using the river for transport of bulk materials such as waste are highlighted in several items of guidance relating to both waste issues and planning. Planning policy guidance note 23 on "Planning and Pollution Control", states in 2.3 that, where

waste cannot be disposed of reasonably close to its source, priority should be given to the use of rail or water transport where this would reduce the overall environmental impact and is economically feasible. "A Waste Strategy for England and Wales" published as a consultation document in January 1995 refers to the advantages of river transport for waste in paragraph 1.61. The need to safeguard relevant riverside sites is an important issue. This message is set out in the Thames strategy report, the Thames gateway planning framework and the report by the River Thames working group. Copies of these documents are in the Library. Local authorities are encouraged to take full account of environmental factors in reaching decisions on the award of waste transport and disposal contracts but such decisions are matters for authorities alone.

I understand that, currently, seven London local authorities have contracts in place for the movement of waste by river.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) how many landfill sites for the disposal of waste have opened in each of the last five years, and how many have closed; and if he will list this information by region; [32649]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued concerning consultations and investigations to be undertaken by each relevant authority in relation to applications for permission to create new landfill sites for the disposal of waste; [32643]

(3) what priority he gives to each category of land use in determining the criteria for permission to create new landfill sites for the disposal of waste; [32644]

(4) what was the previous use of each new landfill site for the disposal of waste created *(a)* since 1 January and *(b)* in each of the preceding four years; [32645]

(5) what is his policy on the use for waste disposal of *(a)* greenfield sites, *(b)* agricultural land, *(c)* derelict industrial land and *(d)* contaminated land for (i) landfill (ii) other types of waste disposal; [32646]

(6) what alternative means to the landfill disposal of waste have been considered by his Department; and what conclusions have been reached on each; [32647]

(7) what is the average size of landfill sites for the disposal of waste in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* each region; [32648]

(8) what is the number of landfill sites for the disposal of waste in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* each region; and what were the numbers in each of the last five years; [32650]

(9) what is his policy on the creation of new landfill sites for the disposal of waste; [32652]

(10) how many applications for permission to create new landfill sites for the disposal of waste have been refused in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* each region (i) since 1 January and (ii) in each of the preceding four years. [32654]

Mr. Clappison: Policy and guidance on waste disposal operations are included in the draft waste strategy for England and Wales published earlier this year, the planning policy guidance note on planning and pollution control—PPG23—and the series of waste management papers produced by the Department.

The strategy contains details of the Government's waste management policies, which are directed towards the minimisation of waste and its reuse and recovery wherever possible. It is recognised, however, that successful policies in this area will not eradicate waste. As a nation, we will continue to produce large quantities of waste for which final disposal is the only economic and environmentally sound option. The Government's policy is to set in place the necessary controls to ensure that waste disposal takes place without endangering either the environment or human health.

In order to operate a landfill site in England, it is necessary to obtain planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and a waste management licence under section 35 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Planning permission for landfill sites is granted by the relevant waste planning authority. Waste management licences are granted by the relevant waste regulation authority.

Guidance on the consideration of planning applications for landfill sites is contained in PPG23. More generally, circular 15/92 and appendix B of circular 9/95 provide guidance for planning authorities on publicity and consultation arrangements in respect of applications for planning permission.

A proposal to establish a new landfill site for the disposal of waste may require an environmental impact assessment. Guidance on the consultations to be undertaken, and on the form of the assessment is published in the booklet "Environmental Assessment—A Guide to the Procedures" and is also provided in DOE circular 15/88. Waste regulation authorities are likely to be consulted on any environmental assessment undertaken as part of a planning authority's consideration of a planning application for a site.

Decisions on planning application for landfill sites must be made in accordance with the provisions of the development plan, unless material consideration indicate otherwise. The criteria adopted by waste planning authorities in their consideration of landfill proposals will depend on the terms of the policies, and the proposals for land uses, set out in the development plan. The assessment of applications for landfill sites must also take into account the objectives of the EC framework directive on waste, insofar as these are relevant, and the Government's planning policy guidance, including the guidance on waste management facilities in PPG23. Planning policies for the countryside and agricultural land, open space and green belts are set out in PPGs 7, 17 and 2 respectively.

Details of the numbers of applications for planning permission for new landfill sites in England granted and refused over the last five years are as set out in the table.

Details of the previous use of new landfill sites granted planning permission within the last five years are not held centrally.

The information relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Wales and for Scotland and my

right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The Department has published guidance to waste regulation authorities on the discharge of their responsibilities concerning waste management licensing, including consultation procedures and initial investigations on licence applications, in waste management papers 4 and 26 and in DOE circular 11/94.

Under section 36 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, a waste regulation authority must consult the National Rivers Authority, the Health and Safety Executive and, where appropriate, the relevant nature conservation body, before it approves a licence application.

Before an application can be determined, the applicant is required to provide to the waste regulation authority a working plan which shows how the applicant proposes to prepare and develop, operate, monitor and control pollution, and restore and complete the facility. The working plan should contain the operator's plans for the management of gas and leachate and for capping and restoration.

Information on the number of applications for waste management licences granted or refused in each year is not held centrally. Waste regulation authorities hold information about the number of landfill sites in their areas, and the numbers opened and closed, as well as the size of each site. The total number of licences in force for landfill sites in England for the years since 1991–92 is set out in the table:

Year	*Number of licences*
1991–92	3,330
1992–93	3,186
1993–94	2,618
1994–95	2,541

The information relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Wales and for Scotland and my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Applications for new landfill sites refused and granted 1991—1994 and January to March 1995[1]

	1991		*1992*		*1993*		*1994*		*January to March* [2]*1995*	
	Granted	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*
North West	22	5	51	26	43	15	16	15	5	0
Yorkshire and Humberside	13	2	23	16	30	7	25	7	65	
North-East	7	4	15	5	8	1	9	2	3	0
West Midlands	47	11	23	12	22	11	5	11	6	0
East Midlands	22	14	39	9	24	7	17	6	1	1
Eastern	40	12	37	8	24	7	26	3	7	0
South-West	68	46	91	19	68	13	49	16	12	7
South-East	67	42	44	15	40	12	27	11	6	1
London	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
England	286	136	323	110	259	73	175	71	46	14

[1] From 1 April 1992, statistics related to applications decided by county councils, metropolitan districts, London boroughs, urban development corporations and national park authorities. Data for earlier periods relate to decisions by county councils only.
[2] Figures for 1995 are available for the period 1 January to 31 March.

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) what criteria his Department uses to assess appeals on applications for permission to create new landfill sites for the disposal of waste; [32651]

(2) how many appeals he has received *(a)* for the United Kingdom and *(b)* for each region (i) since 1 January and (ii) in each of the preceding four years concerning a decision to (1) grant and (2) refuse permission to create new landfill sites for the disposal of waste. [32653]

Mr. Clappison: There is a right of appeal to the Secretary of State against a refusal by a planning authority to grant planning permission, and also against a refusal by a waste regulation authority to grant a waste management licence for a landfill site.

Section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1991 requires that every planning application must be determined according to the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. This requirement applies to local planning authorities determining a planning application, and to the Secretary of State determining a planning appeal.

The first criteria for the assessment of landfill planning proposals are therefore those contained in the development plan. In particular, structure plans and waste local plans contain policies governing development for waste disposal purposes, but the policies of district local plans will also be considered.

The Secretary of State gives guidance in planning policy guidance notes, PPGs and minerals planning guidance notes MPGs. Of particular relevance is part 5 of PPG23 "Planning and Pollution Control" and, where an old mineral working is to be filled, MPG7 "The Reclamation of Mineral Workings".

Pollution control agencies will be consulted on every waste landfill planning application, and their advice will be an important consideration in determining planning applications and appeals.

Technical aspects of waste management are the subject of advice in waste management papers, published by the Department, parts of which may be relevant to the consideration of planning proposals for landfilling; parties to a planning appeal may refer to other published technical papers of standing, which may be material to a planning decision.

The Secretary of State has received planning appeals relating to landfill sites in England as set out in the table. The information relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Wales and for Scotland and my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Landfill-related planning appeals received by the Secretary of State	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*[1]
Appeals against refusal of planning permission	18	26	14	9	4
Appeals against non-determination of planning permission	0	1	3	3	1
Appeals against conditions in planning permission	0	0	1	0	1

[1] Covers period 1 January to 30 June 1995.

Section 43(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides specified persons with a right of appeal to the Secretary of State against a decision of a waste regulation authority to reject an application for a waste management licence. The Act, together with regulations 6 to 9 of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994, sets out the procedure for making and determining appeals. Guidance on the regulations is provided in DOE circular 11/94 and guidance on determining licence applications is provided in waste management paper No. 4. The Secretary of State's decision on individual cases is dependent upon the specific issues brought before him by the parties involved.

Since 1 May 1994, in England, three appeals have been made under section 43(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act against the refusal of a waste regulation authority to grant a waste management licence for a new landfill site. One of these appeals has been made since 1 January 1995. The appeals are before the Secretary of State for consideration. A new monitoring system was introduced on 1 May 1994 when the new licensing system came into force. Prior to 1 May 1994, the information was not kept in a form that can now provide comparable figures for the preceding four years. The information relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Wales and for Scotland and my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many applications for permission to create new landfill sites for the disposal of waste have been granted in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region (i) since 1 January and (ii) in each of the preceding four years. [33127]

Mr. Clappison: I refer the hon. Member to my earlier reply about landfill sites.

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Mr. Colvin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when part V of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 will come into effect; and what has been the cause of the delay. [32676]

Sir Paul Beresford: Part V of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 has already been brought into effect, except for certain sub-sections relating to the control of minority interests in certain companies which in keeping with the principles of the private finance initiative it is not now intended to bring into force.

Energy from Waste

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what consideration has been given to the promotion of energy from waste schemes in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* each region in line with the national waste strategy; and what future consideration is planned. [32642]

Mr. Clappison: "A Waste Strategy for England and Wales", published as a consultation document in January 1995, sets out the means by which we can aim to manage waste in a more sustainable way and, in contributing to this, the role which energy from waste can play in recovering value from waste. The draft waste strategy highlights ways in which central and local government, working with industry, can further encourage its take-up. The Government are currently considering the many responses they have received on the draft strategy, and expect to publish the final version towards the end of the year.

Stray Dogs

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the requirement on local authorities to check for any microchip carried by a stray dog. [33102]

Mr. Clappison: There is no requirement on local authorities to check for any microchip carried by a stray dog.

Chancery Lane Public Record Office

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement about the future use of the Chancery lane public record office. [31477]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Public Record Office is moving to greatly enlarged premises on its Kew site at the end of 1996 and, as a result, it will vacate Chancery lane by this date.

This important historic building is part of the Government estate and responsibility for its future rests with Property Holdings. Extensive discussions have been held with English Heritage and the City of London Corporation, the relevant planning authority, about its future use and a number of options are being explored, including retention for other Government purposes. If the building is not needed by Government, a number of private uses are being considered. One of these is a

continuation of the legal nature of the building which would include barristers' chambers, other legal users, perhaps with some attendant residential use. It would also be suitable for educational/institutional use.

Property Holdings will shortly be opening discussions with potential private sector operators who might implement one of these uses that is acceptable to English Heritage and the planning authority. Interested parties would be welcome to contact the agents, BH_2 at their City of London offices.

National Parks

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) how many representations he has received from members of the public in support of the amended national park purpose of promoting opportunities for quiet enjoyment and understanding in *(a)* March, *(b)* April, *(c)* May and *(d)* June of this year; and if he will place copies of these representations in the Library; [33482]

(2) how many representations he has received from organisations in support of the amended national park purpose of promoting opportunities for quiet enjoyment and understanding in *(a)* March, *(b)* April, *(c)* May and *(d)* June of this year; and if he will place copies of these representations in the Library. [33481]

Mr. Clappison: The following number of representations has been received:

	Organisations	*Members of the public*
March	13	56
April	4	11
May	1	15
June	4	7

As these representations were not made in response to a public consultation exercise, it is not appropriate to place copies in the Library.

Mr. Bennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the number of access agreements made in each national park in the most recent year for which figures are available. [33490]

Mr. Clappison: This information is not held centrally. I have asked officials to seek details and will write to the hon. Member.

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is now the status of the commitment to quiet enjoyment as set out in the Government response to the Edwards report "Fit for the Future", page 26, paragraph 12.1(i), in January 1992. [33483]

Mr. Clappison: We considered very carefully the consequences of introducing into the revised and updated national park purposes set out in the Environment Bill the phrase "quiet enjoyment". We concluded that the disadvantages outweighed the advantages in doing so. Subsequent debates on the Bill have reinforced our belief that this conclusion was correct.

DEFENCE

Explosives and Propellants

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 28 June, *Official Report*, column *682*, what account was taken of the sale of explosives propellants and related end products to countries abroad in reaching the explosives, propellants and end products agreement. [32437]

Mr. Arbuthnot: One of the objectives of the EPREP agreement was to assist Royal Ordnance in becoming an efficient competitor. This objective related to both the national and international markets.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 28 June, *Official Report*, column *682*, what explosives, propellants and related end products were supplied to countries abroad under the EPREP agreement; and if he will list the relevant countries and products. [32436]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The EPREP agreement, signed on 28 July 1988, concerned the requirements of the United Kingdom armed forces. It did not cover supplies to countries abroad.

Naval Bases

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list all the foreign submarines which have visited the Faslane submarine base since 1993 and the candidates on which they visited the bas. [32488]

Mr. Soames: The information requested is as follows:

Date	*Vessel*	*Nationality*
1993		
8–9 January	USS BALTIMORE	USA
19–22 February	HNLMS ZELLEEUW	Netherlands
6–13 April	HNLMS TIJGERHAAI	Netherlands
19–20 April	HNLMS TIJGERHAAI	Netherlands
21–23 April	HNLMS TIJGERHAAI	Netherlands
10–17 May	USS SAN JUAN	USA
21–24 May	HNLMS ZWAARDVIS	Netherlands
25–28 May	HNLMS DOLFIJN	Netherlands
27–29 May	HNLMS BRUINVIS	Netherlands
31 May–1 June	HNLMS ZWAARDVIS	Netherlands
31 May–2 June	HNLMS DOLFIJN	Netherlands
2–3 June	HNLMS ZWAARDVIS	Netherlands
3 June	HNLMS DOLFIJN	Netherlands
3–7 June	HNLMS BRUINVIS	Netherlands
4 June	HNLMS DOLFIJN	Netherlands
20—22 August	USS ALEXANDRIA	USA
30 August	FS AMETHYSTE	France
13 September–5 October	FS AGOSTA	France
14–16 October	USS DALLAS	USA
14–18 October	HNLMS DOLFIJN	Netherlands
19–22 October	USS DALLAS	USA
25–28 October	HNLMS DOLFIJN	Netherlands
31 October–1 November	USS DALLAS	USA
23–30 December	USS ALBANY	USA
1994		
18–22 February	HNLMS TIJGERHAAI	Netherlands
13–17 March	USS PHOENIX	USA
31 March–1 April	HNLMS WALRUS	Netherlands
11–12 April	HNLMS WALRUS	Netherlands
23–27 May	HNLMS ZEELEEUW	Netherlands
3–6 June	KNM UTSIRA	Norway

Date	Vessel	Nationality
10–13 June	KNM UTSIRA	Norway
23–25 June	USS WHALE	USA
6–11 July	USS DALLAS	USA
16–19 August	USS DALLAS	USA
21–22 August	USS BALTIMORE	USA
1–2 September	USS BALTIMORE	USA
22–27 September	USS CINCINNATI	USA
4–7 October	HNLMS BRUINVIS	Netherlands
12–19 December	USS PHOENIX	USA
1995		
16–17 February	HMCS OKANAGAN	Canada
21–26 February	USS AUGUSTA	USA
10–13 March	HMCS OKANAGAN	Canada
20–24 March	USS AUGUSTA	USA
8–12 May	USS NEBRASKA	USA
22–26 May	FS RUBIS	France

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the annual running cost of *(a)* RNAD Coulport and *(b)* CSB Faslane. [32489]

Mr. Soames: As explained in this year's "Statement on the Defence Estimates", in 1994 the Department's running cost regime was replaced by a much broader operating costs limit covering all front-line and support expenditure. The provisional outturn figures, representing total operating costs for these establishments, for financial year 1994–95 are as follows:

RNAD Coulport: £57,889,000

CSB Faslane: £107,363,000

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide a list of all United Kingdom and foreign submarines which have visited and the dates on which they have visited *(a)* Portland naval base, *(b)* Portsmouth naval base and *(c)* the naval base at Plymouth. [32491]

Mr. Soames: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his Department, their purpose and their cost. [32476]

Mr. Soames: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Defence Industry

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for an audit of the nuclear defence industry. [32474]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Financial and safety audit of the nuclear defence industry is a matter for the organisations concerned, together with relevant external regulatory bodies. Activities directly managed by the Ministry of Defence are additionally subject to scrutiny by the National Audit Office. There are at present no plans to augment these arrangements.

Mutual Defence Agreement

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if any information on the implementation of the 1958 Anglo-American mutual defence agreement on atomic energy matters has been withheld under sections 3(4) or 5(1) of the Public Records Act 1958. [32490]

Mr. Arbuthnot: A number of papers relating to the early years of the UK nuclear programme are closed under the Public Records Acts. It is likely that many of these involve matters relating to the 1958 UK-US mutual defence agreement, but to establish exactly what is held would involve disproportionate cost.

Trident Project (Faslane)

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how and to what extent the lessons learned from the Trident project at Faslane have been implemented. [32487]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Experience gained during the Trident works programme informed the new procedures adopted by my Department in 1990 when it was untied from the Property Services Agency for new works projects. The procedures have been reviewed in the light of experience and are reflected in guidance subsequently distributed throughout Government by the Treasury.

Firearms (Sales)

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many small arms, rifles and hand guns, which were no longer of use to the armed forces, have been sold *(a)* in the United Kingdom and *(b)* overseas in each of the last 10 years. [33154]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Sales records are not available for the last 10 years. In the last three years 40,000 small arms, rifles and hand guns have been sold to firearms dealers licensed under section 5 of the Firearms Act to meet overseas orders and 700 rifles have been sold on a Government-to-Government basis.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received from chief constables on his policy for the sale of small arms no longer required by the armed forces. [33156]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I am not aware of any recent representations from chief constables about the sale of small arms no longer required by the armed forces.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his policy on *(a)* the sale and *(b)* the destruction of small arms, rifles and hand guns, no longer of use to the armed forces. [33153]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Under current policy, sales may be made direct to an acceptable overseas Government or to a firearms dealer licensed under section 5 of the Firearms Act in the United Kingdom to meet an order from an overseas customer. MOD will sell only to a UK dealer who has a firm order from an overseas purchaser which meets end user and export control requirements. Dealers are not allowed to buy for stock. Only a small number of inquiries are received each year in either of these categories. Other surpluses for which no export market exists are fragmented first by crushing into granules and subsequently smelting. The majority of surplus weapons are disposed of in this way.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many small arms which were no longer of use to the armed forces he has destroyed in each of the last 10 years. [33155]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Disposal records are not available for the last 10 years. In the last three years some 93,000 small arms have been destroyed and the current rate of destruction is about 90,000 small arms per annum.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what discussions he has had with chief constables in the United Kingdom about the sale of small arms, rifles and hand guns. [33157]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Discussions on the sale of small arms, rifles and hand guns have taken place in the past with the Home Office, who are responsible for representing the views of the chief constables. Liaison with chief constables is effected by the chief constable of the Ministry of Defence police in his operations.

Defence Statistics

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his Department will publish the 1995 edition of "United Kingdom Defence Statistics". [33159]

Mr. Soames: On Friday 14 July 1995.

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his Department's aim during the negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. [33160]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Our aim in the negotiations of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty is to establish an effective and verifiable treaty commanding universal adherence as soon as practicable.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of whether Britain still has a requirement to use underground testing in order to maintain the stock of nuclear weapons. [33161]

Mr. Arbuthnot: We do not have any current plans for further underground tests of nuclear weapons. However, we are still considering what activities might be necessary to ensure the safety and reliability of our nuclear weapons under a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

Dog Training

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *183*, what is the number taking part for each course for the latest year available; and what is the annual cost and the location of each course. [33282]

Mr. Soames: My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Ministry Property Sales

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on former MOD houses that have subsequently been resold. [33308]

Mr. Soames: My Department does not monitor what may happen to properties once they have been sold by the Ministry of Defence, except where there is a specific reason for doing so.

Contracts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department has placed and to what value with *(a)* BT, *(b)* Rolls-Royce, *(c)* Alfred McAlpine plc, *(d)* Racal Electronics and *(e)* British Aerospace in the last five years. [33244]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Details of the number and value of contracts placed with individual defence companies are a matter of commercial confidentiality between the Ministry of Defence and those companies. The Department does, however, give broad information on contractors paid £5 million or more in table 1.16 of the annual publication "UK Defence Statistics" which is placed in the Library. The 1995 edition will shortly be available and the contractors listed in the question are included in those statistics.

BMARC

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what investigations he has initiated since 18 June within his Department to locate all outstanding BMARC documents. [30520]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 29 June 1995]:* The deputy chief constable of the MOD police ordered a thorough re-sort of the seized property held by them and is now satisfied that all outstanding documents which were seized by the MOD police from Astra holdings and its subsidiaries, during the course of an investigation into corruption involving those companies, have been located and have been returned to their rightful owners.

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 4 April, *Official Report*, column *1098*, what investigations his Department undertook to determine which documents had been returned to the receivers of Astra in June 1993. [30050]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 22 June 1995]:* The documents returned to the receivers of Astra in June 1993 were listed on the seized property forms which related to them and these are the record of the seized property which was returned at that time.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how additional documents were located by his Department's police relating to the arms companies BMARC and Astra. [30051]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 22 June 1995]:* I have nothing to add to my answer of 19 June, *Official Report*, column *31*, to the hon. Member.

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the action taken in connection with the files referred to in Detective Inspector Berry's letter to Cork Gully of 27 January 1993. [30103]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* No reply was received from Cork Gully by Detective Inspector Berry to his letter of 27 January 1993. After a further letter from Detective Inspector Berry, dated 15 June 1993, and subsequent telephone conversations, a large number

of documents were delivered to Cork Gully. It was believed at the time that these were all of the property seized by the Ministry of Defence police from Astra holdings and its subsidiaries, during the course of an investigation into corruption involving those companies.

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions Ministers in his Department communicated with Ministry of Defence police concerning the letter from Detective Inspector Berry to Cork Gully of 27 January 1993. [30105]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* None before it was sent.

Portland Naval Base

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will set out the level of expenditure over the last three financial years on *(a)* the Ward room, *(b)* tennis courts and *(c)* medical and dental centres at Portland naval base and HMS Osprey. [31542]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* The information requested is as follows:

	1992–93 £	*1993–94* £	*1994–95* £
Wardroom	96,290	101,550	95,020
Tennis Courts	nil	nil	nil
Medical Centre[1]	17,000	5,200	3,860
Dental Centre[2]	2,000	2,000	2,000

[1] Reducing costs reflect the rundown of the existing medical centre[2] Approximate average costs for minor maintenance items which are not recorded separately.

Royal Ordnance

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 29 June, *Official Report*, columns *751–52*, (1) what factors underlay the recent research in relation to export licences; if the research that uncovered the fact that Singapore Technologies was a consignee of exports from Royal Ordnance was conducted on pre-1992 records; and if he will make a statement on exports from Royal Ordnance to which he refers; [32912]

(2) what inquiries he has made regarding the onward re-export and final use of munitions exported by Royal Ordnance to Singapore since 1980; [33025]

(3) if he has anything further to add to his answer on Royal Ordnance and Iran to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark), of 14 January, *Official Report*, columns *345–46*. [33177]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* I have nothing to add to the answer given to the hon. Member for Workington (Mr. Campbell-Savours) on 4 July, *Official Report*, column *180*, except to confirm that the research underlying the answer to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent on 29 June, *Official Report*, columns *751–52*, as it relates to Royal Ordnance was based on DTI computerised records which date from 1992.

Arms Embargoes

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many representations his Department has made to overseas companies based in the European Union which have breached export embargoes on military equipment and weapons agreed by the European Union. [32877]

Mr. David Davis: I have been asked to reply.

It is not our policy to make representations to overseas companies. If we were concerned at the activities of an overseas company an approach would be made to the Government of the country in which the company was based.

No such approaches have been made.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Rents

26. **Mr. Flynn:** To ask the right hon. Member for Selby, as representing the Church Commissioners what new proposals he has to increase rents from Church lands. [31464]

Mr. Alison: We have no new proposals to increase rents from our agricultural land.

Current practice on rental increases flows from the commissioners' ownership of good agricultural land, the provision of the fixed equipment needed for profitable farming and a constructive relationship with our tenants. There are no proposals to depart from this policy.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, following his oral answer to the hon. Member for Linlithgow of 3 July, *Official Report*, column 15, if the civil servant in question was on paid or unpaid leave. [33297]

Mr. Freeman: The gentleman in question was on paid leave.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33425]

Mr. Horam: This information is not held centrally.

Chessington Computer Centre

Mr. Elletson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what targets have been set for the Chessington Computer Centre trading fund for the current financial year. [33220]

Mr. Horam: I have set the following targets for Chessington Computer Centre in 1995–96:

(1) to achieve an operating surplus of £1.137 million;

(2) to increase pay clerk productivity by 7 per cent. over 1994–95 performance;

(3) to increase use of the on-line data capture system (SPIRE) to 85 per cent.;

(4) to maintain the minimum on line service availability at 98.5 per cent.;

(5) to improve the range of services available to customers, in particular, to meet their needs on pay delegation.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 11 July 1995

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Repossessions

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many *(a)* proceedings were commenced to repossess homes and *(b)* homes were repossessed in (i) Darlington and (ii) each county in northern England in each year since 1990. [33783]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked him to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 11 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about repossession proceedings.

The following charts show the total number of mortgage possession actions commenced in Darlington County Court, and the county courts in the counties of Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear, since 1990. As not all orders result in repossession, I am unable to tell you how many properties were repossessed in this period. I have therefore included in the tables the number of possession orders made. I should add that the figures for 1994 are provisional and are consequently liable to revision to take account of any late amendments.

Darlington County Court

Year	Actions commenced	Orders made
1990	411	214
1991	565	471
1992	431	390
1993	313	302
1994	396	286

County Courts in Cleveland

Year	Actions commenced	Orders made
1990	1,149	824
1991	1,578	1,347
1992	1,377	1,254
1993	1,086	1,094
1994	796	832

County Courts in Cumbria

Year	Actions commenced	Orders made
1990	700	535
1991	965	745
1992	848	969
1993	670	676
1994	506	589

County Courts in Durham

Year	Actions commenced	Orders made
1990	1,165	727
1991	1,661	1,504
1992	1,187	1,173
1993	920	791
1994	918	659

County Courts in Northumberland

Year	Actions commenced	Orders made
1990	219	157
1991	413	261
1992	250	210
1993	208	210
1994	128	159

County Courts in Tyne and Wear

Year	Actions commenced	Orders made
1990	1,710	1,303
1991	2,300	1,703
1992	2,378	2,672
1993	1,755	2,266
1994	1,394	1,903

In some years the number of orders made was greater than the number of action commenced. This is because:

(a) some orders were made on cases which commenced in the previous year

(b) a number of cases were adjourned in the previous year but restored in the current year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Fees Office (Computer Breakdown)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed, as representing the House of Commons Commission what was the cause of the House of Commons Fees Office computer breakdown; how many *(a)* staff, and *(b)* right hon. and hon. Members did not receive their June salaries on the correct date; when the fault was rectified and payments made; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Beith: I understand that the failure to make June salary payments on time was caused by operator procedural error in the Fees Office in producing the relevant disc for clearance by bankers automated clearing service, and not by a computer breakdown. The error affected 644 hon. Members, but did not affect any staff.

Non-payment was identified on Monday 3 July and remedial action was taken immediately to credit hon. Members' accounts on 5 July. Investigations are currently being held within the Fees Office and I am assured that all possible steps are being taken to prevent a repetition of the error, which the Fees Office greatly regrets.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Road Accidents (Police Vehicles)

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what policies his Department has to reduce the number of road accidents involving police patrol vehicles. [32923]

Mr. Maclean: Action by police forces to reduce the number of police vehicle accidents is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police, but the incidence of such accidents is closely monitored by Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary, HMIC. We are working with HMIC and the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers to find ways in which to achieve a reduction.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what investigations his Department makes into the prior driving convictions of police officers involved in road traffic accidents while driving police vehicles. [32924]

Mr. Maclean: None. Consideration of police officers' driving records, and investigations relating to driving offences and convictions which occurred after entry to the police service, are the responsibility of individual chief officers of police.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice he gives to chief constables and deputy chief constables in permitting police officers to return to driving police vehicles after they have caused a fatal accident due to careless driving while carrying out police duties. [32926]

Mr. Maclean: All decisions on the allocations of police driving duties, including action taken following an accident, are a matter for individual chief officers.

Book Signings

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the cost of the police operation at the book signings held at *(a)* Hatchards, Piccadilly on 12 June, *(b)* Harrods on 13 June, *(c)* W. H. Smith, Holborn on 14 June and *(d)* Selfridges, Oxford street, on 14 June; and if any contribution towards costs is to be made by the book publishers. [33283]

Mr. Maclean: It is a long-standing practice not to reveal the costs of security operations.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Churchill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has been the change in asylum seekers to the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, in 1994; what has been the change in such applications in *(a)* Denmark, *(b)* Finland, *(c)* Germany, *(d)* Norway and *(e)* Sweden; and if he will make a statement. [33152]

Mr. Nicholas Baker *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The available information on asylum applications in western European countries for 1993 and 1994 is given in the table. The number of applications for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, rose from 22,400 in 1993 to 32,800 in 1994, an increase of 45 per cent.

The figures in the table show that asylum applications to this country have been rising when most of our European Union partners have been experiencing reductions. The United Kingdom has a duty under the 1951 United Nations convention on refugees to consider asylum applications made on our territory, but it has no obligation to encourage would-be asylum seekers from around the world to come here. I can confirm that the Government are considering taking measures, in addition to the major increase in resources for the asylum determination system and wider use of powers to curtail leave announced in my right hon. and learned Friend's written answer on 15 February, *Official Report,* column *693,* to enable us to deal more effectively with the growing number of undeserving and abusive asylum applications and reduce the factors which may attract such applicants to this country.

Applications received for asylum in selected European countries, including dependants[1], 1993 and 1994

	1993	*1994*	*Difference*	*Percentage Increase*
Belgium	26,900	14,300	−12,600	−45
Denmark	14,400	6,600	−7,800	−55
Finland	2,000	800	−1,200	−60
France	27,600	26,000	−1,600	−5
Germany	322,600	127,200	−195,400	−60
Italy	1,300	1,800	+500	+40
Netherlands	35,400	52,600	+17,200	+50
Norway	12,900	3,400	−9,500	−75
Spain	12,600	10,200	−2,400	−20
Sweden	37,600	18,600	−19,000	−50
Switzerland	24,700	16,100	−8,600	−35
United Kingdom	28,000	42,200	+14,200	+50

[1] Except for Spain which excludes dependants, and France which excludes minor dependants.

Shotgun Certificates

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children aged under 16 years have held shotgun certificates in each of the past five years. [33245]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Firearms

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded crimes involved the use of *(a)* replica firearms and *(b)* reactivated firearms in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [33248]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The available information relates to recorded notifiable offences in which imitation firearms, including replicas, were used.

Notifiable offences recorded by the police in England and Wales where an imitation firearm was reported to have been used:

1989: 365

1990: 420

1991: 481

1992: 419

1993: 411

The information recorded by the police about offences in which firearms were used does not identify reactivated weapons. Some information is available, however, on the weapons used in shooting incidents and I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *349*.

Special Constables

Mr. Churchill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 3 July, *Official Report*, column *29*, when the advertisements aimed at recruiting 30,000 special constables were first placed; when the first responses were received; and how many have thus far been recruited. [33242]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* A pilot exercise was undertaken in the Granada region in April 1994, and the campaign was launched nationally in October. Advertisements first appeared on television and in the local press on 27 October 1994 and there was an immediate response. In the first two days—27 and 28 October—1,839 inquiries were received and more than 38,500 inquiries have been made to date. Feedback from police forces on the number of special constables recruited as a result of the advertising is incomplete and we are currently considering what steps need to be taken to improve our information. I shall write again as soon as I have the numbers.

Drugs Prevention Initiative

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will publish a report on the progress of his Department's drugs prevention initiative. [34125]

Mr. Maclean: We are today publishing the drugs prevention initiative's fifth annual progress report, which records encouraging progress in developing a range of drugs prevention work in various local communities in the nine months from 1 July 1994 to 31 March 1995. As part of "Tackling Drugs Together", the Government's new drugs strategy, the drugs prevention initiative is now expanding its operations in England for a further four years. I have placed a copy of the report in the Library.

Mentally Ill Prisoners

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 18 April, *Official Report*, column *92*, what percentage of the total prison population was judged to be mentally ill in each of the past 10 years; and of these what percentage *(a)* had been diagnosed as mentally ill before arrest, *(b)* had been homeless before arrest, *(c)* was imprisoned for serious offences, *(d)* was subject to the care programme approach and *(e)* was sent to private hospitals. [31222]

Miss Widdecombe *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Paul Flynn, dated 11 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about mentally ill prisoners.

Information is not available centrally on the nature of the offences committed by prisoners who are in receipt of care and treatment for mental health problems. Neither is information available about whether such prisoners were subject to the Care Programme Approach or on their histories before arrest.

The information which is available is as follows. From December 1991, Prison Service establishments have carried out regular medical monitoring exercises. To monitor the assessed needs of mentally disordered prisoners, of whom the mentally ill form one category, information is centrally collected on a periodic basis. On a given day prisoners who are considered by prison doctors to need some form of mental health care are categorised as follows:

(a) prisoners requiring removal or transfer to a psychiatric hospital under Mental Health Act provisions and who are awaiting such transfer. This figure includes remand prisoners awaiting disposal by the court;

(b) prisoners who are sufficiently ill to be occupying in-patient beds in prison health care centre.

(c) prisoners requiring some form of mental health care but not removal/transfer to psychiatric hospital or in-patient treatment in a prison health care centre.

These single day surveys can be used to calculate a figure for the average number of prisoners requiring transfer to a psychiatric hospital or some other form of mental health care on any one day in the years 1992, 1993 and 1994. This gives the following results, expressed as a percentage of the average prison population, including those in police cells:

1992—5.4 per cent.

1993—6.0 per cent.

1994—5.6 per cent.

Prisoners transferred to hospital under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 cannot be taken directly from prison to a private psychiatric hospital. Arrangements can, however, be made for prisoners to be transferred on to such hospitals immediately after they have first been taken to a National Health Service hospital. information on transfers to hospital in 1994 is still provisional and subject to revision. The current provisional total number of transfers from prison to psychiatric hospital under sections 47 and 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983 is now 792, which is greater than the provisional figure included in the table enclosed with my letter to your of 18 April. The provisional figure for transfers to private hospitals for 1994 is 57, which represents 7.2 per cent. of the total. This particular information was not collected centrally before 1994.

Scarman Inquiry

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the total cost of the local inquiry, established in 1981 pursuant to section 32 of the Police Act 1964, to investigate the Brixton disorders; how long the inquiry took from being established to reporting; and what criteria persuaded the then Home Secretary to appoint such an inquiry. [33294]

Mr. Maclean *[holding answer 10 July 1995:]* Home Office records show that disbursements of about £207,000, at 1981 prices, were made in association with the Scarman inquiry. They include administrative and legal costs, but do not include the staff costs of the secretariat of the inquiry or the costs of the Metropolitan police. The inquiry commenced in April 1981 and reported in November 1981. The factors that persuaded the then Home Secretary to establish the inquiry would have included the extent, seriousness and duration of the disturbances.

Mr. D. B. Guisso

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the hon. Member's letters dated 22 March, 24 April and 31 May concerning her constituent, Mr. D. B. Guisso. [33596]

Mr. Nicholas Baker *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* I replied on 5 July.

Farm Thefts

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what was the number of burglaries on farms and farm outbuildings in England and Wales for each of the past 10 years; [33138]

(2) what was the number of cases of thefts of produce from fields in England and Wales for each of the past 10 years; [33137]

(3) what was the number of cases of livestock theft in England and Wales for each of the past 10 years. [33136]

Mr. Maclean: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are being taken to reduce burglaries from farms and farm outbuildings; and what reports his Department has produced. [33139]

Mr. Maclean: Decisions about policing priorities are matters for chief officers of police. They attach a high priority to measures aimed at tackling burglary and many initiatives are successfully reducing the number of burglaries. There are, for instance, over 500 farm watch schemes across the country.

The Home Office has no plans to produce a report on farm burglaries but will continue to support the police through its crime prevention training, publicity and research programmes.

Criminal Records (Care Workers)

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to make it easier for prospective employers to check the criminal records of those seeking employment caring for vulnerable groups. [33222]

Mr. Maclean: We will be setting out our proposals in a White Paper on new arrangements for access to criminal records, which is to be published later this year.

Non-European Community Students

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what are the charges made by the police for the registration of non-EC students and visitors for the *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* Cambridge and *(e)* Northumbria areas; and what service is provided in exchange for the charge. [33165]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The fee, which is set nationally, is £30. It covers the cost of administering the scheme.

Prostitution

Mrs. Golding: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the number of children, under the age of 16 years, charged with prostitution in each of the past five years. [33104]

Mr. Maclean: As detailed information on the number of persons charged is not collected centrally, cautioning and court data are given in the table:

Total number of females aged 10 to under 16 years cautioned and prosecuted for prostitution offences under Section 1 of the Street Offences Act 1959[1] 1989–1993

Age	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
England and Wales					
10	—	—	—	1	—
11	—	—	—	—	—
12	—	2	4	2	—
13	3	3	5	1	5
14	9	14	10	7	33
15	38	22	40	51	40
10–15	50	41	59	62	78
All ages	15,498	14,646	14,005	13,102	11,520

[1] Common prostitute loitering or soliciting for the purposes of prostitution.

HEALTH

Rights of the Child Convention

Mrs. Golding: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he has taken to promote the United Nations convention on the rights of the child. [33105]

Mr. Bowis: Copies of the convention were sent to local authorities, health authorities and major voluntary child care organisations in England and Wales.

AIDS

Miss Lestor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what considerations led his Department to decide not to provide any funding for the Europe against AIDS summer campaign 1995; and if he will make available funding for the 1996 and 1997 summer campaigns. [33099]

Mr. Sackville: Ministers were originally approached to support the Europe against AIDS summer campaign in 1994. At that time, some Governments, including ours, decided that they did not wish their health promotion agencies to be involved in the work. The reasons included a view that the campaign image itself was inappropriate and that a range of domestically funded campaigns such as the travelsafe initiative and the Health Education Authority's summer travel campaigns were already in existence. The reasons underlying the decision remain the same.

Primary Care Centres

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will fund the establishment of primary health care centres at strategic locations to deal with out-of-work calls by patients for medical advice and assistance; and if he will make a statement. [32999]

Mr. Malone: We recently offered a package of proposals designed to encourage family doctors to organise together to provide their out-of-hours care. As part of this package, we offered to make available an extra £45 million to support general practitioners' out-of-hours services, including primary care centres. Discussions with the profession are continuing.

General Practitioner Fundholding

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take action to ensure that general practitioner fundholders *(a)* hold regular meetings in public, *(b)* consult

the public on their purchasing intentions, *(c)* submit their contracts to quality monitoring at least as rigorous as for health authorities and *(d)* establish relationships with community health councils comparable to those already existing with other purchasers and providers; and if he will make a statement. [33000]

Mr. Malone: The *Accountability Framework for GP fundholding* requires general practitioner fundholders to make their plans and performance reports available for public scrutiny by sending them to community health councils, making them available to patients at the practice and involving patients in service planning. GP fundholders are also required, as part of the process for monitoring and reviewing performance, to submit to the health authority an annual report of their performance including quality improvements achieved.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will withdraw his Department's decision to amend the funding formula for health authorities and implement a system of capitation-based funding for GP fundholding practices at the earliest opportunity; if he will base budget allocation on an equitable allocation of resources between the patients of fundholding and non-fundholding practices; and if he will make a statement. [33002]

Mr. Malone: The fair allocation of resources is a fundamental principle of budget setting in the national health service. This applies irrespective of whether practices are fundholding or not.

Copies of EL(94)79, "Developing NHS purchasing and GP fundholding", EL(94)84, "General Practice Fundholding: guidance on setting budgets for 1995–96" and FDL(94)68, "Revenue allocations 1995–96" are available in the Library.

Children's Nurses

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase the number of registered sick children's nurses training places and ensure that local plans for children's services within the national health service are effectively implemented; and if he will make a statement. [33001]

Mr. Bowis: Training commissions for registered sick children's nurses have increased from 776 in 1989–90 to 1,612 in 1993–94—an increase of 108 per cent. This indicates the commitment of health authorities and trusts to trained children's nurses.

Privatisation

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33460]

Mr. Sackville: No part of the Department of Health or its agencies has been privatised since 1980.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the past five years. [33563]

Mr. Sackville: The Department of Health and its agencies have spent the following amounts from running costs on consultancy.

1990–91: £18,398.000
1991–92: £24,258,000
1992–93: £18,399,000
1993–94: £15,933,037
1994–95: £18,479,405

Information on the number of contracts the Department has had with consultants over the past five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Practitioners' Premises

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will during the current revision of the Community Health Council Regulations ensure that CHCs are given the right to monitor those services provided on general practitioners' premises; and if he will make a statement. [33667]

Mr. Malone: We have no present plans to extend the statutory role of community health councils to monitor services provided on general practitioners' premises.

Specialised Care

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will fund centrally the cost of extensive funding for individual patients needing specialised care; and if he will make a statement. [33673]

Mr. Sackville: It is generally for purchasing authorities to buy health care for their local residents. Central funding is, however, provided under the supra-regional service arrangements for a small number of services which, to be clinically effective, need to be concentrated in a limited number of centres.

Tower Hamlets

Ms Gordon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will give a breakdown of population in Tower Hamlets by the age groups up to four, five to 10, 11 to 16, 17 and 18, 19 to 21, 22 to 30, 31 to 60-65 and 60-65 and over by enumeration district. [33654]

Mr. Sackville: The latest resident population estimates which are available relate to mid-1993. The figures for Tower Hamlets, which allow for under-enumeration in the census as well as for changes since 1991, are as follows:

Ages	*Thousands*
0–4	15.0
5–10	16.9
11–16	13.9
17–18	4.2
19–21	7.8
22–30	30.2
31–64/59	57.3
65/60+	24.3
All ages	169.6

A listing of the 'all ages' populations recorded in the 1991 Census for each of the 365 enumeration districts in Tower Hamlets will be placed in the Library.

Grommets and Dilation and Curettage

Ms Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations for the insertion of grommets and for dilation and curettage have been conducted by region for each year since 1992. [32114]

Mr. Sackville: Information about the number of these operations will be placed in the Library.

Illegal Employment (Children)

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the incidence of illegal employment of young children. [31799]

Mr. Bowis: I am not aware of any significant evidence that the illegal employment of children is a widespread problem.

Nurses' Pay

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of nurses he estimates will receive a 3 per cent. pay award this year. [33162]

Mr. Malone: This is a matter for local negotiation. Nearly 80 per cent. of trusts who employ nurses have offered 3 per cent. or more. I fully expect the pattern of offers yet to come to be along similar lines.

Human Embryos

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many living human embryos are currently held in stock by licensees of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority; in how many of those cases the parent of those embryos is no longer known; if he will give a breakdown of the number of such embryos by their age in years since fertilisation; if he will indicate the maximum age beyond which storage of such embryos becomes illegal; how many such embryos will reach that age in each of the next three years for which figures are available; what means will be authorised for the killing of those embryos which are not used by that date; what plans he has to bring forward proposals for allowing the adoption of such living human embryos; and if he will make a statement. [33796]

Mr. Sackville: Section 14(4) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, which came into force on 1 August 1991, states that embryos may be stored for a maximum of five years unless regulations provide for a shorter storage time or specify the circumstances in which they may be stored for a longer period. The statutory five-year period for those embryos in storage on 1 August 1991 ends on 31 July 1996.

Information about the number of stored embryos is not collected by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority as a matter of routine. The number of embryos stored by individual licensed centres changes daily.

The Government are fully aware of public concern about stored embryos. The authority has been asked by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health to make a report on the issues surrounding the statutory storage period for embryos. It is understood that some information on the number of such embryos is being collected in connection with that report. When the report is received, Ministers will consider whether any action by Government is necessary.

Infertility Treatment

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if it remains his policy that payments to women for their ova for use in research or in infertility treatment should not be allowed; [33794]

(2) what plans the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has to review the ban on payment to women for their ova for use in research or infertility treatment; and if he will make a statement; [33795]

(3) if he will list the legal provisions which regulate payments to women for their ova for use in research or infertility treatment; and if he will make a statement. [33793]

Mr. Sackville: Section 12(e) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 states that no payment may be made for gametes or embryos except in accordance with directions. Section 23 authorises the giving of directions by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

The direction issued in 1991 regularised the position which prevailed when the HFEA assumed its powers. It allows payment of up to £15 per donation or benefits in the form of free treatment or sterilisation.

The authority is currently reviewing its policy regarding the payment of egg and sperm donors. It recently held a conference to discuss issues concerning payment. Licensed centres will be notified of any changes in policy as soon as the authority has considered the various arguments for and against payment.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33453]

Mr. Freeman: None.

NATIONAL HERITAGE

Tourism

Mr. Pendry: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if he will publish the text of his Department's response to the European Commission's Green Paper on tourism. [32027]

Mr. Sproat: I have placed copies of the response in the Libraries of both Houses.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by her or ministerial colleagues in her Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied her and the total cost in each case, including that of officials to public funds for each year since 1992. [32278]

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: Details are set out in the table. Total travel and subsistence costs for Ministers and accompanying private secretaries were £15,807.57 in 1993–94; £46,125.09 in 1994–95; and £4,760.84, so far, in 1995–96. Figures for 1992–93 are not available.

Dates	*Minister*	*Destination*	*Purpose*	*Number of officials*[1]
1992				
21 January	Right hon. Tim Renton MP	Madrid	Audience with King and Queen of Spain	1
6 February	Right hon. Tim Renton MP	Paris	Cultural visit	1
13 May–15 May	Robert Key MP	Greece—Rhodes	Council of Europe Conference of Sports Ministers	1
18 May	Right hon. David Mellor MP	Brussels	EU Culture Ministers Meeting	1
4 June	Robert Key MP	Luxembourg	EC Formal Council-Tourism Action Plan	1
14 June	Right hon. David Mellor MP	Malmo	England *v.* France World Cup	1
23 July–26 July	Robert Key MP	Barcelona	Olympic Games	1
31 July–1 August	Right hon. David Mellor MP	Barcelona	Olympic Games	1
5 August–6 August	Robert Key MP	Barcelona	Olympic Games	1
11 September	Robert Key MP	Seville	Expo '92	1
12 September–16 September	Robert Key MP	Madrid	Paralympics	1
15 October–16 October	Robert Key MP	Paris	Council of Europe Ministers Meeting	1
11 November–12 November	The Viscount Astor	Brussels	Culture Council	0
1993				
19 February	Right hon. Peter Brooke MP	Paris	Visit Pavillon de L'Arsenal and Musee de Louvre	1
12 March–13 March	Robert Key MP	Madrid	Meeting of Offices of National Lottery	2
26 March	Robert Key MP	Brussels	Office opening ceremony of Antwerp European City of Culture '93	1
7 April–8 April	The Viscount Astor	New York	New York Landmark Preservation Foundation Lunch	0
21 April–22 April	The Viscount Astor	Copenhagen	EU Informal Culture Ministers meeting	0
15 May–17 May	Robert Key MP	Cannes	Film Festival	2
17 May	Right hon. Peter Brooke MP	Brussels	EU Culture Ministers Meeting	1
19 September–21 September	The Viscount Astor	Antwerp	EU Informal Cultural Affairs Committee meeting	1
22 September–23 September	Right hon. Peter Brooke MP	Paris	Opening Ceremony of BTA's Maison de la Grande Bretagne	1
22 September–23 September	Iain Sproat MP	Monte Carlo	International Olympic Committee	1
4 October–5 October	The Viscount Astor	Brussels	EU Audio-Visual Ministers Meeting	0
1994				
4 January–8 January	Iain Sproat MP	USA	Tourism visit	1
19 February–22 February	Right hon. Peter Brooke MP	Norway	Winter Olympics	1
25 February–26 February	Lady Trumpington	Lisbon	Official Inauguration of Lisbon '94	1
30 March–3 April	Right hon. Peter Brooke MP	India	Cultural visit	1
4 April–10 April	Right hon. Peter Brooke MP	Japan	Cultural visit	1
17 June	Right hon. Peter Brooke MP	Luxembourg	EU Culture Council meeting	1
25 June–27 June	Iain Sproat MP	Vienna	Spanish Riding School	2
15 July–17 July	Lady Trumpington	Würzburg	EU Informal Culture Council Meeting	1
18 August–19 August	Right hon. Stephen Dorrell MP	Canada	Commonwealth Games	1
23 August–27 August	Iain Sproat MP	Vancouver	Commonwealth Games	1
30 October–5 November	The Viscount Astor	Japan	World Conference of Tourism Ministers	1
10 November	Lady Trumpington	Brussels	EU Culture Council Meeting	1
22 November–23 November	Lady Trumpington	Lisbon	Culmination of Lisbon '94	0
1995				
21 January–27 January	Iain Sproat MP	Australia	Australian Sports Academy	2
13 February–14 February	Right hon. Stephen Dorrell MP	Bordeaux	EU Informal Culture Ministers meeting	1
28 February	Right hon. Stephen Dorrell MP	Brussels	Meeting with European Commissioners	1
3 April	Right hon. Stephen Dorrell MP	Luxembourg	EU Culture Ministers meeting	1
3 April–4 April	Lady Trumpington	Luxembourg	EU Culture Council Meeting	1
10 April–11 April	Lady Trumpington	Annecy	European Tourism Days	1
17 May	The Viscount Astor	Switzerland	European Incentive Business Travel Market	1
21 May–22 May	Right hon. Stephen Dorrell MP	Cannes	Film Festival	1
17 June–25 June	Iain Sproat MP	South Africa	Rugby World Cup	1

[1] Where these details are not available, it has been assumed that one official was in accompaniment.

TREASURY

Tax Yield

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the total amount of *(a)* income tax, *(b)* capital gains tax, *(c)* inheritance tax and *(d)* corporation tax for each of the last 10 fiscal years expressed (i) at April 1995 prices and (ii) as a percentage of total Exchequer income. [32330]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* The information requested is in the table:

	Income tax		*[1]Capital gains tax*		*Inheritance tax*		*[1]Corporation tax*	
	At 1995 Q1 prices[2]	*As a percentage of general government receipts*	*At 1995 Q1 prices[2]*	*As a percentage of general government receipts*	*At 1995 Q1 prices[2]*	*As a percentage of general government receipts*	*At 1995 Q1 prices[2]*	*As a percentage of general government receipts*
1985–86	55,120	23.3	1,420	0.6	1,370	0.6	16,690	7.1
1968–87	58,270	24.1	1,610	0.7	1,500	0.6	20,430	8.5
1987–88	59,500	23.6	1,980	0.8	1,550	0.6	22,610	9.0
1988–89	58,510	22.7	3,130	1.2	1,440	0.6	24,970	9.7
1989–90	61,440	23.5	2,330	0.9	1,550	0.6	27,060	10.4
1990–91	64,420	25.3	2,160	0.8	1,470	0.6	25,050	9.8
1991–92	63,060	25.9	1,250	0.5	1,420	0.6	20,030	8.2
1992–93	59,870	25.5	1,040	0.4	1,280	0.5	16,640	7.1
1993–94	59,810	25.3	730	0.3	1,360	0.6	15,230	6.5
1994–95	63,370	25.3	930	0.4	1,420	0.6	19,500	7.8

[1] Tax on capital gains realised by companies is included in corporation tax.
[2] Using the GDP deflator at market prices adjusted for the abolition of domestic rates.

Seizures of Alcohol

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the number of seizures of alcohol intended for re-sale in the United Kingdom for each of the last three years at *(a)* Dover, *(b)* Folkestone, *(c)* Portsmouth, *(d)* Southampton and *(e)* in total; and what was the estimated value of the seizures. [32732]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: This information is retained by Customs on a collection basis rather than port by port. There are two collections involved, south-east England collection, covering Dover and Folkestone and southern England collection, covering Southampton and Portsmouth. The number and revenue value of seizures of alcohol from both the European Union and third countries for the financial years 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95 are given in the table.

Seizures of Alcohol by Customs and Excise

Financial year	*1992–93*		*1993–94*		*1994–95*	
Collection	*Number*	*Revenue value £*	*Number*	*Revenue value £*	*Number*	*Revenue value £*
South East England Collection	30	32,042	64	180,584	182	465,793
Southern England Collection	96	5,543	84	102,390	97	164,525
Whole Country	1,473	238,494	1,340	922,666	1,398	2,171,213

TRANSPORT

Forth Rail Bridge

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Health and Safety Executive has reported on the Forth rail bridge. [31794]

Mr. Watts: The assessment is continuing.

Heavy Vehicles

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will give the number of trucks over 7.5 tonnes involved in *(a)* fatal crashes and *(b)* serious injuries in each of the past five years. [33599]

Mr. Norris: Estimates based on available information to 1994 are shown in the table. Information for vehicles other than heavy goods vehicles within these weight bands is not available.

Number of HGVs involved in injury road accidents, by severity and gross weight: GB 1990–1994

	1990			*1991*			*1992*			*1993*			*1994*		
	Fatal	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*
HGV															
3500–7500 kg	206	1,041	3,481	177	900	3,277	172	826	3,132	119	732	3,166	109	676	2,763
7501–16999 kg	171	673	2,161	114	491	1,839	94	449	1,606	88	383	1,496	56	331	1,315
17000 plus kg	523	2,045	6,223	544	1,865	6,027	580	1,801	5,837	474	1,710	6,247	468	1,917	6,931
Total	900	3,759	11,865	836	3,256	11,143	846	3,076	10,574	681	2,825	10,910	633	2,924	11,009

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will give the number of prosecutions and convictions in each of the past five years for *(a)* mechanical faults and *(b)* hours offences in magistrates courts and sheriff courts in Scotland; [33602]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions were obtained in magistrates and sheriff's courts for (i) tachograph and hours offences and (ii) mechanical illegalities since 1984; [33580]

(3) how many vehicles were involved in *(a)* fatal, *(b)* serious injury and *(c)* minor injury crashes between the weights of (i) 3.5 tonnes and 7.5 tonnes, (ii) 7.5 tonnes and 17 tonnes and (iii) 17 tonnes plus for each of the past ten years. [33579]

Mr. Norris: The information as contained within the Home Office and Scottish Office statistical records is in the tables:

Court Action	*Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition*[1] *Magistrates (England and Wales)*		*Work record and employment offences*[2] *Magistrates*	
	Prosecutions	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
1984	146,547	133,410	25,310	20,447
1985	131,903	120,004	26,320	21,312
1986	121,226	108,577	29,866	23,201
1987	97,396	82,035	23,456	18,348
1988	101,808	84,407	27,074	20,658
1989	97,351	79,701	34,955	26,621
1990	89,419	70,838	35,324	26,497
1991	91,809	69,650	36,609	27,022
1992	93,504	67,793	34,114	24,284
1993	87,354	62,336	28,445	19,712

[1] These offences broadly represent offences under the Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986. The offences are: defective brakes; defective steering gear; defective tyres; using a vehicle in a dangerous condition; other offences relating to vehicles in a dangerous or defective condition.

[2] These figures relate to the drivers' hours and tachograph offences. The specific offences covered area: driver/employer failing to keep or produce proper records or to install and use recording equipment; failing to observe limits on hours or driving and duty, or rest requirements; other work record and employment offences (except falsification offences).

Court Action	*Offences under the Construction and Use Regulations and Lighting Regulations* *Sheriff (Scotland)*		*Motor Vehicle Records of Work Offences, including tachograph offences* *Sheriff*	
	Prosecutions	*Convictions*	*Prosecutions*	*Convictions*
1989	6,126	5,343	1,800	1,525
1990	5,629	4,818	1,971	1,649
1991	5,119	4,284	2,115	1,774
1992	4,772	4,551	2,519	2,070
1993	3,844	3,068	1,866	1,534

Information on offences in Scotland before 1989 is not immediately available. I will write to the hon. Member.

Inquiries

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many inquiries there have been under the Transport and Works Act 1992 procedures; and in each case how long they have taken. [33535]

Mr. Norris: Two inquiries have been completed: the River Usk Barrage Order, which took 14 weeks, and the East London Line Extension Order, which took seven weeks. A third inquiry, into the Greater Manchester (LRTS) (Airport Extension) Order, is in progress and is expected to take nine weeks.

Channel Tunnel Link (Stratford)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if the Government remain in principle in favour of an intermediate station on the channel tunnel rail link at Stratford. [33533]

Mr. Watts: The Government have an open mind on this question. They will reach a decision on whether there should be an intermediate station at Stratford in the light, inter alia, of the bids from the consortia bidding to construct the channel tunnel rail link.

Road Traffic Act 1988

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will repeal sections 157 to 159 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to ensure that road traffic users are not charged for treatment following accidents. [33661]

Mr. Norris: These sections of the Road Traffic Act are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Health.

I understand that there are no plans to repeal them.

Travel Facilities (Railway Workers)

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the protection of residential and leisure travel facilities on the rail network for employees and former employees of the National Freight company, Freightliner, the British Rail hotel group and other existing and former subsidiary companies of British Rail, who currently enjoy such rights. [33678]

Mr. Watts: The Government have given a clear assurance that residential and leisure travel facilities for those employees and former employees of the railway industry who currently enjoy such rights will be safeguarded.

Contracts of employment provide the protection for such entitlements as a condition of service. Franchised rail service operators will be obliged, through the terms of the contracts that they will have with the franchising director, to provide travel facilities on their services for entitled staff.

The benefits and obligations of agreements which the British Railways Board has with the employers of such staff will be transferred to a company, Rail Staff Travel Ltd., specifically established for the purpose of maintaining residential and leisure travel facilities to all those entitled.

Night Flights (Heathrow)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flight landings and take-offs there have been at Heathrow airport between the hours of midnight and 6 am since 1 January. [32858]

Mr. Norris: Flight movements are monitored during the night quota period, 11.30 pm to 6 am. From 1 January to 1 July there were 2,862 movements, including exemptions and dispensations.

Railtrack

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what is his estimate of the proportion of Railtrack's current access charges that reflects the cost of depreciation and the amount in pounds that this represents; and if he will give his estimate by train operating unit for the current financial year; [32686]

(2) what is the intended relationship between depreciation of Railtrack's assets as measured by the modern equivalent asset value convention and future replacement expenditure plans; and if he will place in the Library the written guidance given to Railtrack on that relationship. [32682]

Mr. Watts: Railtrack's access charges are subject to the approval of the rail regulator. The way in which they were set is explained in the policy statements on charges he issued earlier this year.

It is not possible to disaggregate the amount allowed in access charges for asset renewals between train operating companies.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is his estimate for the financial years 1994–95 and 1995–96 of the proportion of total subsidy to the train operating companies returning to Railtrack as track access charges, and the amount of pounds that this represents. [32683]

Mr. Watts: Grant from the franchising director to the train operating companies in respect of services provided in 1994–95 was £1,748 million. It is estimated that the grant will be £1,610 million in 1995–96. This represents just one of the sources of revenue with which train operating companies cover their costs, including track access charges levied by Railtrack.

Track access charges levied by Railtrack in 1994–95 were £1,923 million. Final access charges for 1995–96 have yet to be approved.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what categories of asset have been excluded from valuation under the modern equivalent asset valuation convention employed in determining depreciation costs for Railtrack; and what is the current market value of those assets. [32684]

Mr. Watts: The estimate of current cost depreciation used by the rail regulator when he set Railtrack's access charges took account of the accounting policies adopted by the British Railways Board. These policies are set out in BR's published accounts for 1993–94.

M5 (Resurfacing)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is the maximum tailback, resulting from the resurfacing of the M5 between junctions 16 and 18; what steps he is taking to shorten it; and on what grounds the planned timing of these roadworks was decided. [31851]

Mr. Watts *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* This is an operational matter for the Highways Agency.

I have asked the chief executive to write to my hon. Friend.

Letter from Lawrie Haynes to Mr. Anthony Steen, dated 11 July 1995:

As you know, the Minister for Railways and Roads, Mr John Watts, has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the Secretary of State for Transport, what is the maximum tailback resulting from the resurfacing of the M5 between junctions 16 and 18; what steps he is taking to shorten it; and on what grounds the planned timing of these roadworks was decided.

The Agency does not keep detailed records of tailbacks resulting from roadworks.

All possible action to minimise the delays caused to motorists was taken. Instead of the more normal contraflow layout which has 2 lanes of traffic in each direction this scheme included an extra lane through the works area making a total of 5 lanes open to traffic. The contract was of the Lane Rental type whereby the contractor is given an incentive to complete early and penalised for poor performance.

The work was carefully itemised. It was started *after* the Easter Bank Holiday. Restrictions were removed completely for the Late May Bank Holiday and scheduled for completion by 30 June, before the school holidays. I am pleased to confirm that the contract finished on time.

Signalling (Rail)

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is his estimate of the cost of replacing a typical semaphore signalling system with a replacement system with the same service capability, allowing for any differences both in the quality of the output and in operating costs. [32681]

Mr. Watts: I have made no such estimate. It would be for Railtrack to decide whether such a comparison were necessary.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Land Mines

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals were put forward by the United Kingdom to the United Nations conference on land mine clearance in Geneva, on 5 to 7 July; and if he will make a statement on the outcome of the meeting. [33059]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The proposals made by the United Kingdom include:

strengthening of the 1981 UN weaponry convention, particularly its protocol II on the use of land mines;

the introduction of measures to complement a strengthened weaponry convention, in particular the UK–US proposal for an anti-personal land mine control programme;

improved co-ordination of international support for mine clearance programmes; and

the promotion of research into mine detection techniques.

The meeting was a pledging conference and raised more than US $20 million for the UN voluntary trust fund for assistance in mine clearance.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Bermingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice he is giving to United Kingdom citizens in respect of visits to Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [33354]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 10 June 1995]:* The current travel advice for Sri Lanka is as follows:

> Peace talks between Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Tigers broke down on 19 April. There has been subsequent fighting in the north and east. Do not visit these areas. The south and centre, including all the main tourist areas and the cultural triangle, remain for the most part unaffected. There was an attempted major car bomb attack, almost certainly by the LTTE, near the arrivals terminal of Katunayake airport late on 5 June, followed by a threat of further attacks on KIA. Security at the airport and elsewhere has been greatly increased. This may result in delays. The recent small bomb explosions in Colombo were not thought to target foreign visitors but exercise caution in public places as there is a risk of further bomb attacks. Visitors may contact the British High Commission in Colombo, tel 437336, fax 430308, for further information.

UNESCO

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration has been given by Her Majesty's Government to rejoining UNESCO; and what plans he has for the United Kingdom to rejoin during 1995. [33704]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: We are continuing to keep this issue under review.

Miss O. A. Bamgbose

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the report from the Home Office immigration officer at Becket house on Miss O. A. Bamgbose was received by the entry clearance officer in Lagos, Nigeria. [33597]

Mr. Hanley: I have asked the embassy at Lagos for details and will arrange for the hon. Member to receive a substantive reply from the migration and visa correspondence unit as soon as possible.

Ascension Island

Sir David Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will cause the ordinance of 18 May 1990 concerning Ascension Island to be amended to add to the categories of people exempt from entry permit requirements those EU citizens awaiting onward travel to St. Helena and similarly on their return. [33538]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: Immigration legislation on Ascension Island is the responsibility of the Governor of St. Helena. There are no plans to instruct the Governor to amend existing legislation.

PRIME MINISTER

Staff Shareholdings

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, including the companies concerned. [33428]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office is part of the Cabinet Office, Office of Public Service. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service and Science on 10 July.

Oil Platforms (Disposal)

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Prime Minister if he will transfer responsibility for the approval of the disposal of disused oil platforms at sea from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Department of the Environment, the Welsh Office and the Scottish Office. [31692]

The Prime Minister: No. The Department of Trade and Industry consults relevant Government Departments on all abandonment proposals.

Engagements

Sir Peter Tapsell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list his official engagements for Tuesday 11 July. [32188]

Mr. Harry Greenway: to ask the Prime Minister if he will list his official engagements for Tuesday 11 July. [32189]

The Prime Minister: This morning I had meetings with ministerial colleagues and others. In addition to my duties in this House I shall be having further meetings later today.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister what is the salary of the Deputy Prime Minister. [33684]

The Prime Minister: The Ministerial salary of the First Secretary and Deputy Prime Minister is £42,834, in addition to his reduced parliamentary salary.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister which Cabinet sub-committees the Deputy Prime Minister has been asked to chair. [33685]

The Prime Minister: The First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister will be chairing a number of Cabinet committees. The revised composition and terms of reference of such committees will be published shortly.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister how many civil servants are employed in the Deputy Prime Minister's Department. [33686]

The Prime Minister: The First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister is supported by the Cabinet Office (Office of Public Service). The competitiveness and deregulation division of DTI transferred to the Cabinet Office on 5 July and the Office of Science and Technology transferred to DTI on the same day. The transfers are still being finalised but the total number of civil servants in the Office of Public Service is likely to be about 1,000.

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Prime Minister, if he will list the responsibilities and terms of reference of the Deputy

Prime Minister, the number of staff for which he is responsible, the location of his office and that of his staff and the proposed budget of his office. [33792]

The Prime Minister: The First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister will assist generally and have specific responsibility for the competitiveness agenda, the working of Government and the presentation of policies. He will chair a number of Cabinet committees and will be an ex-officio member of Cabinet committees generally. He will have ministerial responsibility for the Cabinet Office (Office of Public Service). His office is located in the Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall. The total budget of the Cabinet Office (Office of Public Service), including those functions transferred from the DTI, will be approximately £80 million.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister, what are the *(a)* parliamentary and *(b)* other duties of the Deputy Prime Minister [33683]

The Prime Minister: The First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister will answer in Parliament for the responsibilities of the Cabinet Office (Office of Public Service), and undertake any other parliamentary duties as appropriate. On his duties more generally, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today to the hon. Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger).

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Prime Minister if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33462]

The Prime Minister: None.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Chisholm: To ask the Prime Minister how many post cards he has received from the national post card campaign for breast cancer launched on 7 June. [33784]

The Prime Minister: I have received a number of representations in connection with this campaign.

SCOTLAND

Road Safety

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans he has to improve road safety in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [30959]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Good progress has already been made towards achieving the Government's target of reducing casualties by one third by 2000, compared with the 1981–85 average. At the end of 1993, total casualties had fallen by 17 per cent. and fatal and serious casualties were 46 per cent. less. The Scottish Office is taking forward a number of road safety initiatives covering engineering, education, publicity and enforcement, which are designed to make further contributions towards achievement of the Government's target. These include measures to reduce vehicle speeds, to encourage more responsible driving and to lessen the accident risk to vulnerable road users.

Health Care International

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what were the terms on which a Scottish Enterprise employee was given leave of absence to become director of international marketing for Health Care International in Clydebank; and when the employee subsequently left HCI. [31346]

Mr. Kynoch: The terms of employment of individual members of their staff are an operational matter for Scottish Enterprise. I have asked the chairman to reply to the hon. Member.

Electro-Shock Weapons

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what action his Department has taken to follow up allegations made in January in relation to the illegal and unauthorised production, export and arrangement of sale of electro-shock weapons and equipment; what legal action has been and is being undertaken in consequence of such investigations; and if he will make a statement. [31031]

Mr. Kynoch *[holding answer 29 June 1995:]* The Scottish Office has conducted extensive investigation and is satisfied that the allegations made against the Department by the Channel 4 "Dispatches" programme are unsubstantiated.

The investigation by Strathclyde police into matters arising from the programme is not yet concluded.

Scottish Ferries (Rebate Subsidy)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the current percentage rate of tariff rebate subsidy for cars and passengers on *(a)* northbound voyages and *(b)* southbound voyages between Orkney, Shetland and the Scottish mainland on P&O Scottish Ferries; and if he will indicate what changes have taken place in subsidy rates since 30 April. [32689]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 5 July 1995]:* There have been no changes in passenger and accompanied car subsidy rates since 30 April 1995. The table sets out the rates that have applied since 1 April 1995, and the previous subsidy rates that applied up 31 March 1995.

Percentage

	Subsidy rates for southbound voyages (island related traffic)		*Subsidy rates for northbound voyages (mainland related traffic)*	
	From 1 April 1995	*Up to 31 March 1995*	*From 1 April 1995*	*Up to 31 March 1995*
Adults and Children	58.0	63.0	47.0	30.5
Students, Pensioners and Disabled	76.0	58.0	47.0	30.5
Accompanied Cars	58.0	63.0	47.0	30.5

Procurator Fiscal Service

Mr. Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish the current grade structure and remuneration of the Procurator Fiscal Service. [32663]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The current grades and salary ranges in the Procurator Fiscal Service are:

	Minimum £	*Maximum* £
Legal Grades		
3	52,704	62,817
4	45,278	54,815
5	36,739	54,815
Senior Depute/Lower Level PF	26,418	45,078
Senior Legal Assistant	25,281	44,136
Legal Assistant	18,185	22,983
Administrative Grades		
Senior Executive Officer	19,215	25,289
Higher Executive Officer/Higher Precognition Officer	15,363	20,634
Precognition Officer	11,914	18,639
Executive Officer	11,208	16,496
Administrative Officer	8,778	12,174
Administrative Assistant	6,928	10,279
Typing Grades		
Chief Typing Manager	14,579	20,913
Typing Manager	12,880	16,504
Personal Secretary	9,287	12,592
Typist	7,247	10,279
Support Grades		
Support Grade Band I	9,621	11,323
Support Grade Band II	8,602	10,227

Crown Office

Mr. Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the current establishment of the Crown Office; and how many posts are vacant. [32664]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The current establishment of the Crown Office is 136.5 and there is one administrative vacancy.

Advocates Depute

Mr. Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what are the current terms of engagement and remuneration of advocates depute. [32665]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Advocates depute are commissioned by the Lord Advocate and generally serve for a period of about three years. The salary of the home advocate depute is £45,956 and of the other 12 advocates depute £42,384.

Temporary Classrooms

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list by region the number of primary and secondary schools providing temporary classroom accommodation. [33298]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The information requested is not collected centrally.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Offshore Oil and Gas Licensing

Mr. Ainger: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will place in the library a copy of the advice he received from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee on offshore blocks 106/3, 106/4, 106/8, 106/9, 106/24, 106/25, and 106/30A. [33790]

Mr. Page: Consultation with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee over blocks to be offered in the 16th round of offshore oil and gas licensing took place on the understanding that the information provided would be treated in confidence. This is our established practice with regard to blocks offered for licensing.

I can inform the hon. Member, however, that JNCC did not object to the inclusion of blocks 106/3, 106/4, 106/8, 106/9, 106/24, 106/25 and 106/30a in the 16th round offer and also agreed the licence conditions attached to these blocks to protect the environmental sensitivities in the areas concerned.

Mr. Ainger: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the specific conditions to protect the environment on blocks 106/3, 106/4, 106/8, 106/9, 106/24, 106/25 and 106/30A licensed in the 16th offshore licensing round. [33791]

Mr. Eggar: The conditions to protect environmental sensitivities in blocks 106/3, 106/4, 106/8, 106/9, 106/24, 106/25 and 106/30a have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mr. Bennett: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many export license applications for each country were approved in 1994 for the export of goods defined in group 1 of part III or schedule 1 of S.I. 1992, No. 3092, as *(a)* of ML1 to ML11, ML13 to ML18, ML20, ML23, ML24, and ML26 and *(b)* each of PL5001, PL5002, PL5006, PL5014, PL5017, PL5018, PL5020, PL5021, PL5027, PL5028 and PL5029. [32733]

Mr. Ian Taylor: The hon. Gentleman will appreciate that his question involves a very large quantity of statistical information. I shall provide the information he has asked for, to the extent that it is available on my Department's databases. However, the task involved in gathering and collating the data is a considerable one. I shall therefore send the information, in tabular form, to the hon. Gentleman. I shall also arrange to have copies placed in the Library of the House.

Military Exports

Mr. Bennett: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list all countries for which military list export licences have been granted in each of the last five years. [29849]

Mr. Ian Taylor: Countries for which military list export licences have been issued in the years 1990–1994 inclusive are:

Abu Dhabi
Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Anguilla
Argentina
Ascension
Antigua
Australia
Austria
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Benin
Bermuda
Bosnia Hercegovina
Bahrain
Belize
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Burundi
Brunei
Bulgaria
Burma
Virgin Islands (British)
Kampuchea
Canada
Cayman Islands
Chad
Chile
Channel Islands
Cameroon
Canary Islands
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica Republic
Dubai
Ecuardo
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
Falkland Islands
Foroe Isles
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Gibraltar
Grenada
Greece
Guam
French Guiana
Guinea
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Hong Kong
Honduras
High Seas
Hungary
Iceland

India
Indonesia
Ireland
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Cote D'Ivorie
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhistan
Kenya
St. Kitts Nevis
Kirgizstan
Korea Republic of (South)
Kuwait
Laos
Latvia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Lithuania
St. Lucia
Luxembourg
Mauritania
Macao
Madagascar
Malawi
Mauritius
Malaya
Monaco
Macedonia
Mexico
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Malaysia
Montserrat
Morocco
Mozambique
Martinique
Namibia
Nepal
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Niger
Norway
Antilles Netherlands
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Guinea
New Zealand
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
China People's Republic of
Puerto Rico
Qatar
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
Santo Domingo
South Africa
St. Helena
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Surunam
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Taiwan
Tanzania
Thailand
Tahi
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Ciacos Islands
Tunisia
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
Uganda
United Kingdom
Uruguay
America United States of
USSR
Uzbekhistan
Various Countries
Venezuela
St. Vincent
Virgin Islands (US)
Vietnam
Western Samoa
Western Sahara
Yemen Arab Republic
Yemen Peoples Democratic Republic
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Seconded Staff

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many staff from small and medium-sized enterprises were seconded to his Department in 1994. [32269]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* During 1994 there were a total of 186 people seconded to the Department from business. A list of companies providing secondees has been published in the 1994 departmental report, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. To provide the breakdown of the number of staff from small and medium-sized companies could be completed only at disproportionate cost.

Brent Spar

Mr. Dafis: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on his current policy on bringing the Brent Spar inshore to be disposed of. [31693]

Mr. Eggar: Our policy is to consider every proposal on a case-by-case basis to seek the best practicable environmental option. I await a further application in respect of the Brent Spar.

Mr. Dafis: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what lessons he draws from the case of the Brent Spar for the decommissioning of nuclear power stations. [31695]

Mr. Eggar: There are no parallels between the case of the Brent Spar and the decommissioning of nuclear power stations.

Oil Platforms (Disposal)

Mr. Dafis: To ask the President of the Board of Trade in what year his Department or the Department of Energy began to consider options for the disposal of disused oil platforms. [31694]

Mr. Eggar: My Department has been considering options since the early days of North sea development.

Mr. Dafis: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if his Department's procedures for considering applications for licences for the exploration and extraction of oil in Cardigan Bay will include an assessment of options for the disposal of disused oil platforms. [31698]

Mr. Eggar: No. The model clauses incorporated into each offshore production licence provide that no licensee may develop a field for production without the prior consent of the Secretary of State. The Petroleum Act 1987 applies to the abandonment of installations and pipelines. It is therefore not appropriate to consider abandonment options at the application stage.

Executive Pay Increases

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he has to restrict the pay increases awarded to senior executives. [31797]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Pay awards for all employees in the private sector are for the private sector to determine. It is not for Government to dictate how much companies should pay their employees.

Genetic Engineering

Mr. Morley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list those United Kingdom patents that have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* applied for in respect of genetically engineered animals and processes for creating such animals. [33637]

Mr. Ian Taylor: There have been a total of 11 patent applications filed under the Patents Act 1977 and subsequently published relating to genetically engineered animals and/or processes for preparing them. Of these, eight have claims for both animals and processes and three have been granted. Two have claims for animals only and one of these has been granted. One has process claims only and has not yet been granted.

The eight with claims for animals and processes are GB2282139, GB2272440, GB2247023, GB2233655, GB2229440, GB2228487, GB2227243 and GB2223755. The two with claims for animals only are GB2280186 and GB2236753 and the one with only process claims is GB2265909.

Those granted are GB22336753, GB2233655, GB2228487 and GB2227243.

Mr. Morley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what steps he is taking to ensure that United Kingdom patents are not granted in respect of genetically engineered animals and processes for creating such animals where the genetic engineering leads, or is likely to lead, to suffering or physical harm for the animals involved. [33638]

Mr. Ian Taylor: Patents are granted when the requirements of the Patents Act 1977 are met. The Act prohibits the grant of a patent for an invention which would be generally expected to encourage offensive, immoral or anti-social behaviour. Such an objection would be raised only in a clear case. Decisions of the comptroller on the application of the Act are subject to appeal to the patents court.

Astra Holdings

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, further to his inquiry into Astra Holdings, how many shares were brought by each of the executive and non-executive directors of Astra Holdings in each of the three major rights issues before the company was declared insolvent; how many fully paid up shares each held before the first rights issue; how many share options were subsequently granted to each and how many were exercised and at what price; and how many shares were sold by each, at what date, and at what price. [33106]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: These are not matters which were covered in the inspector's report.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the directors of Astra Holdings listed in his inspector's report as unfit to hold office in a public company. [33093]

Mr. Evans: The inspector's report was critical of certain directors. As a result proceedings under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 have been instituted against former directors, John Anderson, Martin Guest, Christopher Gumbley, Gerald James, Laurence Kingswood and James Miller. It is for the court to determine whether their conduct was unfitted such that they should be disqualified from acting as a director or take part in the management of a limited company.

Companies Inspector's Reports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is his Department's policy regarding the publication of inspectors' reports relating to *(a)* public and *(b)* private companies. [33922]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Where inspectors are appointed under the Companies Act 1985 on terms that their report may be published, the normal practice is for my Department to publish such reports in respect of public companies as being matters of public interest, but not to

publish reports in respect of private companies unless there is a particular public interest.

Internal Market Advisory Committee

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the complaints against the United Kingdom which have been raised at the Internal Market Advisory Committee. [31145]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* There have been no complaints against the United Kingdom raised at the Internal Market Advisory Committee since specific single market complaints were first placed on its agenda last year.

Copyright

Mr. David Porter: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement about his plans to *(a)* introduce, *(b)* amend and *(c)* veto new harmonised copyright laws of the European Union in this country. [33006]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* Three European directives in the copyright field await implementation into United Kingdom law: 92/100/EEC on rental and lending rights, and rights for performers, producers and broadcasting organisations; 93/98/EEC on duration of copyright; and 93/83/EEC on satellite broadcasting and cable retransmission. The Government are satisfied that the harmonisation of national laws brought by these directives is necessary to remove distortions from the internal market. The directives have all been formally adopted by the Council of Ministers, and the United Kingdom is obliged to implement their provisions in national law. This will be done by means of secondary legislation made under powers conferred by the European Communities Act 1972 and amending the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to the extent necessary to comply with the directives. The legislation will require approval by both Houses.

The European Commission has a substantial programme for harmonisation of the copyright laws of member states, from which these three directives stem, and it is possible that further proposals may be submitted by the Commission. To the extent their purpose will be to eliminate market distortion, any new proposals will be subject to qualified majority voting, no single country having a veto. The United Kingdom will have a full opportunity in negotiations before the Council to make its views known, and to seek amendments to the content of the Commission's proposals.

Malta (Trade)

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the present balance of trade between the United Kingdom and Malta; and if he will make a statement. [32452]

Mr. Nelson: Detailed information on UK visible trade is regularly published by the Central Statistical Office in business monitor MM20, "Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom with countries outside the European Community (Extra-EC Trade)", available in the Library of the House. In 1994 the UK had a visible trade surplus with Malta of £130.4 million.

Official Receiver

Mr. Soley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what measures will be taken to ensure the continuity of work in the event of the business of the official receiver being contracted out. [32703]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Officials are exploring arrangements which would enable the transfer of existing cases at 1 April 1996 to contractors to complete their administration.

Mr. Soley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the average cost of dealing with *(a)* bankruptcy and *(b)* company liquidations. [32704]

Mr. Evans: In the light of the current contracting out exercise, this information is commercially confidential.

Mr. Soley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if, when work currently undertaken by the official receiver is contracted out and the contractor is unable to sustain a lower cost performance, the contract will be cancelled and returned to the official receiver, and if he will make a statement. [32705]

Mr. Evans: Potential providers will be asked to submit prices which would be incorporated into the terms of their contract. The Insolvency Service would have the right to terminate the contract should a provider be unable satisfactorily to maintain its terms and conditions. Contracting out to a number of contractors would enable alternate providers to be used in the event of a contract cancellation.

Net Book Agreement

Sir David Steel: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will ensure that the net book agreement will be maintained, by seeking to make statutory provision if it becomes necessary. [33144]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The net book agreement benefits from two decisions of the restrictive practices court exempting books from the general prohibition of resale price maintenance and upholding the agreement on public interest grounds. So long as those decisions remain in force, it is for the parties to decide whether to maintain the agreement. The restrictive practices court has been asked to consider whether its previous decisions stand.

Gulf States

Sir David Steel: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will provide details of the value of British exports and imports for each year since 1992 and for the first quarter of 1995 with the Arab states of the Gulf which currently have reciprocal entry visa abolition agreements with the United Kingdom. [32203]

Mr. Nelson: Information is published in Central Statistical Office business monitor MM20, available in the Library of the House.

Coal Authority Land

Ms Walley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will allow individuals currently leasing small sites owned by the Coal Authority to purchase that land. [32710]

Mr. Page: Land was transferred to the Coal Authority, broadly, because it was judged to form part of a prospective opencast site or because it was required for the authority's own use, for example, in connection with mine water pumping. The authority will respond to requests for rights or interests in land that it owns in accordance with its duties under the Coal Industry Act 1994.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Live Animal Exports

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1) if he will make a statement on the new welfare standards for livestock being transported; [32726]

(2) if he will make a statement on the enforcement mechanism for the new standards for livestock being transported. [32727]

Mrs. Browning *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The new requirements adopted by the Council of Agriculture Ministers on 22 June represent a major step forward for the welfare of animals being transported in the European Union. Effective enforcement of the requirements will be vital, and the measure contains tough new enforcement provisions including a licensing system for transport undertakings under which offenders can be disqualified, requirements for the scrutiny of journey plans and strict enforcement obligations on member states.

The directive is for implementation by 31 December 1996, and we will consult thoroughly with all interested parties to ensure that the United Kingdom's implementation of this measure is thorough and effective.

Sheep Scab

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1) if sheep scab is a notifiable disease under sections 15 and 88 of the Animal Health Act 1981; and he if he will make a statement; [32891]

(2) how many prosecutions there has been since 1 January 1993 in relation to sheep scab under the provisions of section 15(7) of the Animal Health Act 1981: and if he will make a statement; [32892]

(3) if he will make a statement concerning the purposes and utility of retaining the notifiability of sheep scab. [32893]

Mrs. Browning *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* Although all secondary legislation detailing the control measures for sheep scab was revoked in 1992, sheep scab remains within the meaning of "disease" in section 88 of the Animal Health Act 1981 and is therefore still technically notifiable to a police constable under section 15(1) of the Act.

A decision on whether to repeal this provision will be taken once I have reviewed what alternative options may be available for dealing with the disease.

The local authority liaison group on animal health matters and the Home Office are fully aware of the situation regarding the notifiability of sheep scab and we will take no action on reported cases unless there are welfare grounds for doing so. I am not aware of any prosecution made under article 15(7) of the Animal Health Act 1981 since 1 January 1993 in connection with sheep scab.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, pursuant to the answer of 28 June, *Official Report*, column *635-6*, what criteria for reform have been adopted when pressing for the further reform of the CAP. [32669]

Mr. Baldry: The Government believe that the CAP should be reformed so as to achieve progressive reductions in product-linked support and protection. This would lead to the eventual removal of artificial restrictions on production and the creation of a competitive and market-driven farming industry. Any remaining support should be better targeted towards environmental and other specific objectives.

Salmon Fishing

Mr. Beith: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what proposals he has made to the National Rivers Authority about changes in the east coast salmon net licensing season; what consultations he held with representatives of *(a)* anglers and *(b)* net fishermen on the proposals, and what evidence he has assembled in support of his proposals. [33036]

Mr. Baldry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Woking (Sir C. Onslow) on 28 June *Official Report*, column *697*.

If the National Rivers Authority, after reconsidering the recommendation made in the 1991 report on salmon net fisheries that the opening date of the drift net fisheries of Northumbria and Yorkshire should be postponed until 1 May, proposes a byelaw to this effect, this will be subject to the statutory consultation procedures.

High Seas Driftnet Fishing

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make a statement in regard to surveillance of the high seas driftnet fishery for albacore tuna in the north-east Atlantic in 1994; how many United Kingdom fisheries patrol vessels were involved in surveillance; how many patrol boats in total were involved in the surveillance; how many days were spent in surveillance; and what was the total cost to the United Kingdom [33633]

Mr. Baldry: Last year, during the summer tuna fishery, the long-standing conflict between Spanish and French fishermen spilled over and embroiled UK vessels. Such harassment of British fishing vessels ceased following the arrival of the Royal Navy in the tuna fishery.

There are a total of nine vessels in the Royal Navy fisheries protection squadron, of which three or four vessels are normally on task to the Ministry at any one time and one to the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency. The Royal Navy sent two vessels to patrol the tuna fishery for a total of 112 patrol days during 1994 at a cost of some £0.6 million to the Ministry and the Welsh Office.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the total catch of albacore tuna by United Kingdom vessels in the high seas drifnet fishery in the north-east Atlantic in 1994; what was its value; and where was the main market for this tuna. [33634]

Mr. Baldry: UK vessels using nets in the north-east Atlantic landed 576 tonnes of albacore tuna in 1994, with a total value of £879,000. Some 426 tonnes of the total were landed in the UK, the main port of landing and first sale being Newlyn.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what monitoring has been conducted of the bycatch of unwanted fish, sharks, dolphins and other wildlife in the high seas driftnet fishery for albacore tuna in the north-east Atlantic; and what contribution to this bycatch is made by the United Kingdom driftnet fleet. [33636]

Mr. Baldry: In 1992 and 1993, there was a study of the bycatch of the French driftnet fleet, which is the largest in the north-east Atlantic tuna fishery. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has commissioned the sea mammals research unit to monitor the bycatch of the United Kingdom tuna driftnet fleet in 1995 and 1996.

Fisheries Protection Vessels

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the total cost of United Kingdom fisheries protection vessels in 1994. [33635]

Mr. Baldry: Fisheries surveillance operations in the UK are undertaken by vessels of the Royal Navy fishery protection squadron and vessels owned and operated by the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture in Northern Ireland. The operational costs for 1994 were some £13.8 million.

WALES

Countryside Council For Wales

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will review his predecessor's announcement of 5 May in relation to the future role, responsibilities and staffing of the Countryside Council for Wales.

Mr. Hague *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* No, the action plan published on 5 May stands and the discussion then instituted about its implementation will continue.

Farming Unions

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultations he has had with each of the farming unions in 1995; and if he will make a statement. [32938]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: I have had several meetings in 1995 with the National Farmers Union and the Farmers Union of Wales.

Connahs Quay

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what measures he will take to modify the impact upon residents in Kelsterton road, Connahs quay, Deeside, of the building of *(a)* the new River Dee crossing and *(b)* the PowerGen power station at Connahs quay; and if he will make a statement. [32940]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Clwyd county council is responsible for the new River Dee crossing. Following consultations, the Department of Trade and Industry attached a number of conditions to the consent for the power station development to protect local residents, including those in Kelsterton road.

River Dee Crossing

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is his estimate of *(a)* the number of jobs created by the building of the River Dee crossing and *(b)* the financial cost incurred in building the River Dee crossing; and if he will make a statement. [32941]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Clwyd county council is responsible for the new River Dee crossing. The scheme is estimated to cost £61 million.

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is his estimate of the impact upon Kelsterton Farm, Kelsterton, Clwyd, of plans for and the construction of the new River Dee crossing, and if he will make a statement. [32939]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Clwyd county council is responsible for the new River Dee crossing.

Landfill Sites

Mr. Rowlands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list landfill sites in Wales which receive waste from the nuclear industry. [32708]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Radioactive waste from the nuclear power industry in Wales is not disposed of to any landfill sites in Wales: it goes to authorised landfill sites in England.

Women's Aid Groups (Funding)

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what funding he has given to women's aid groups over the last five years. [32935]

Mr. Richards: The answer is as follows:

1991–92: £703,140
1992–93: £664,742
1993–94: £752,333
1994–95: £704,597
1995–96: £611,628

These figures include core funding for Welsh Women's Aid and project funding for individual refugees, advice centres and outreach workers.

Upper Limb Disorder

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement concerning work-related upper limb disorder. [33015]

Mr. Richards: I understand that the extent and nature of this condition continues to be a source of debate. Although the Medical Research Council is not currently supporting studies of work-related upper limb disorder, it is always willing to consider scientifically based, sound proposals for research.

Physiotherapists

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is his estimate of the number of physiotherapists in training. [33017]

Mr. Richards: At the end of May, there were 97 student physiotherapists being centrally funded for training in Wales.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the average pay of physiotherapists in the NHS in Wales, and if he will make a statement. [33019]

Mr. Richards: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is his estimate of his annual funding for physiotherapists in the NHS in Wales. [33018]

Mr. Richards: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many physiotherapists work in each of the health authorities in Wales. [33016]

Mr. Richards: Due to the use of local pay scales, information for Pembrokeshire NHS trust is not available centrally. Information for the other health authority areas is given in the table. Staff employed by NHS trusts are included in the area in which they are situated.

Health Authority	*Physiotherapists in post at 31 March 1995 (whole-time equivalent)*
Clwyd	91
East Dyfed	52
Gwent	100
Gwynedd	66
Mid Glamorgan	85
Powys	36
South Glamorgan	150
West Glamorgan	89
Welsh Health Common Services authority	2

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proposals he has to increase funding for physiotherapists in Wales. [33020]

Mr. Richards: None. Any increases in funding for physiotherapists in Wales would be negotiated by health authorities through their contracts with service providers.

Housing

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State of Wales what new finance he proposes to implement the White Paper. "Our Future Homes," and if he will make a statement. [33513]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: "Our Future Homes" highlighted several initiatives to encourage further private sector investment in housing. Government provision for this year's housing programme was announced in "The Government's Expenditure Plans 1995–96 to 1997–98. Departmental Report by the Welsh Office and the Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools in Wales." Support for future years will, of course, be determined later in the year as part of the annual public expenditure review.

Bloodbags

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultations he has had with the director of the National Blood Transfusion Service (Wales) concerning the withdrawal of blood contained in Tuta bloodbags; and what assessment he has made of the impact of the withdrawal on the number of operations cancelled or postponed in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [33543]

Mr. Hague: The managing director of the National Blood Transfusion Service (Wales) has kept my officials fully informed of the situation and there has been no need to cancel or postpone any planned surgery within Wales as a result of this incident.

NHS Trusts' Pay

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answers of 4 July *Official Report*, column *200* and 5 July, *Official Report*, column *241*, if he will give details of the mechanism by which trusts having no executive or non-executive directors other than the appointed chairman can make 1995–96 pay offers to their nursing staff. [33598]

Mr. Hague: Trusts having no executive or non-executive directors have been advised to make offers subject to ratification by the trust board when appointed.

In-patient Activity

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the comparative objective accuracy of deaths and discharges and finished consultant episodes as measures of clinical in-patient and day case activity in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [33544]

Mr. Hague: Finished consultant episodes and discharges and deaths seek to measure different concepts of hospital in-patient activity. Both concepts can be measured accurately but data quality depends on the reliability of local arrangements for the collection and return of data.

In Wales, data on both measures of activity have been collected since 1991–92 and published. Published statistics of overall in-patient activity are based on discharges and deaths as these are more complete than consultant episode figures and are comparable with earlier years.

Welsh Correspondence

Mr. Ron Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is his policy on signing correspondence written in Welsh. [33788]

Mr. Hague: I am happy to sign correspondence written in Welsh.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment (Lancashire)

13. **Mr. Hawkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment by how much unemployment in Lancashire has changed since April 1992. [31795]

Mr. Paice: Unadjusted claimant unemployment in Lancashire has fallen by 14,921 since April 1992.

EU Employment and Social Issues Council

14. **Ms Quin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment when is the next meeting of the EU Employment and Social Issues Council; and if she will make a statement on the agenda. [31796]

Mr. Forth: The next meeting of the Social Affairs Council is on 5 October. The agenda has not yet been settled.

Take-home Pay

15. **Mr. Devlin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what recent evidence she has to show how take-home pay in the United Kingdom compares with that in other EC countries. [31798]

Mr. Page: Independent research shows that British workers' average take-home pay is among the best in the European Union, better than France, Italy or Denmark, and comparable with western Germany.

Labour Statistics

16. **Mr. John Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what is the expected number of school leavers who will join the labour market in July.

Mr. Squire: Latest forecasts suggest that, in England, 145,000 16-year-olds will leave full-time education during the summer. Almost all are expected to join the labour market.

Employment (Terms and Conditions)

17. **Mr. Jacques Arnold:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on terms and conditions of employment. [31801]

Mr. Page: In discussions with her EC counterparts, my hon. Friend, the Member for Maidstone (Miss Widdecombe) consistently argued that attempts to regulate terms and conditions of employment at EU level are unnecessary and likely to lead to more unemployment across Europe.

I and my colleagues intend to continue to advance the benefits of the United Kingdom's policies.

Unemployment (Over-50s)

18. **Mr. Duncan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what initiatives her Department has undertaken to reduce unemployment rates amongst the over-50 age group. [31802]

Mrs. Gillan: It is the Government's sound economic policy, and growth at a sustainable pace, which is producing jobs and reductions in the unemployment rates. The campaign for older workers, which was taken forward with commitment and determination by my predecessor, my hon. Friend, the Member for Maidstone (Miss Widdecombe), is adding to this. I shall continue the campaign to eliminate age discrimination in employment.

Training Allowance

19. **Mr. Ainger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how much the training allowance was when it was introduced and how much it is now. [31803]

Mr. Forth: The youth training allowance, introduced in 1978, was £19.50 per week and is now a minimum of £29.50 for 16-year-olds and £35 for those aged 17 and over participating in youth training. The adults' training allowance, introduced in 1987, is based on the benefit received prior to commencing training plus a premium of £10 per week.

Low Pay

20. **Mr. McFall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what steps she is taking to tackle the problem of low pay. [31804]

Mr. Oppenheim: The Government's commitment to sound economic and labour market policies has resulted in significant increases in real take-home pay for the lowest paid since 1979.

Long-term Unemployment

21. **Ms Lynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what plans she has to commission research into the cost to public funds of long-term unemployment on family stability and physical and mental health. [31806]

Mr. Forth: The relationship between unemployment, family stability and physical and mental health has been the subject of studies by a number of researchers. There are no plans for the Department to commission additional research in this area.

Third Age Challenge Trust

22. **Rev. Martin Smyth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what support her Department is giving to the Third Age Challenge Trust; and if she will make a statement. [31807]

Mrs. Gillan: My predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Maidstone (Miss Widdecombe), supported the work of the Third Age Challenge Trust, endorsing its voluntary code of practice to employers. Its work complements key elements of the Government's campaign for older workers. As the Minister now responsible for the campaign, I commend the work of the Third Age Challenge Trust. Ageism makes no economic sense for individual employers or for the nation.

Vacancies-unemployed Ratio (Wolverhampton)

23. **Mr. Purchase:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what is the vacancies to unemployed ratio in the Wolverhampton travel-to-work area. [31808]

Mr. Robin Squire: In May 1995, and on the unadjusted basis, there were 15,175 claimants unemployed in the Wolverhampton travel-to-work area and 857 unfilled jobcentre vacancies. The ratio between the two figures is misleading because jobcentre vacancies represent only a proportion of the total vacancies available in the area.

Job Opportunities

24. **Mr. Tony Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what new proposals she has to increase job opportunities for those recently made redundant. [31809]

Mr. Paice: We will continue with the policies and measures that have enabled businesses to create nearly 300,000 new jobs in the past year and reduced redundancies to half the level of a year ago.

Unemployment Benefit Claims (Bradford, West)

25. **Mr. Madden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many people aged under 25 years living in Bradford, West are claiming unemployment benefit. [31810]

Mr. Paice: In April 1995, on the unadjusted basis, there were 2,061 under-25-year-olds claiming unemployment-related benefits in Bradford, West, which is 11 per cent. less than the year before.

Nursery Voucher Scheme

Mr. William O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what is her assessment of the number of four-year-olds in the Normanton constituency who would qualify for consideration under the nursery vouchers plan. [33639]

Mr. Robin Squire: The parents of all four-year-olds in the Normanton constituency will be given a voucher that can be exchanged for good quality pre-school education.

Mr. O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provision will be made for nursery places in the Normanton constituency when the nursery voucher scheme is introduced. [33640]

Mr. Squire: My right hon. Friend has invited local authorities to volunteer their areas for phase 1 of the nursery voucher scheme. Parents of every four-year-old in local education authorities that are selected for phase 1 will receive a voucher for pre-school education which they will be able to use from April 1996. Full implementation will be from April 1997.

Teachers' Pensions

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans she has to privatise the teachers' pension fund.

Mr. Robin Squire: My right hon. Friend has no such plans. In my announcement of 7 June, *Official Report*, columns *205-7*, I said that, whether or not we let a contract to administer the teachers' superannuation scheme, the scheme itself will stay in the public sector, on its current statutory basis. The scheme is unfunded.

Teachers' Pay

Sir John Hannam: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will make a statement about teachers' pay in 1995–96. [34088]

Mrs. Gillian Shephard: I am today laying before Parliament a pay and conditions order bringing the provisions of the school teachers' pay and conditions document 1995 into force from 1 September 1995. Copies of the order are being sent to local education authorities, the chairmen of governors of grant-maintained schools and the teachers' and employers' associations. I have already implemented the 2.7 per cent. pay award for teachers by a first pay and conditions order in April.

The school teachers' pay and conditions document 1995 was published on 28 June, following detailed consultation with the teachers' and employers' associations and representatives of the governors of voluntary schools and grant-maintained schools. The document sets out the statutory pay and conditions of service for teachers in maintained schools in England and Wales.

Disabled Students

Sir John Hannam: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when the interim report of the further and higher education review programme announced on 27 March 1995 will be available. [34089]

Mrs. Gillian Shephard: The Government announced on 27 March 1995 details of a review of the effectiveness of further and higher education legislation in meeting the needs of students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The review has offered the Government the chance to work with the funding councils, representative bodies for higher education and organisations for the disabled to ensure that the legislative framework continues to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Copies of the interim report have been placed in the House of Commons Library today.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Further Education (Buildings)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what standards set by which bodies further education college buildings are obliged to meet; and to what extent they meet their criteria. [32905]

Mr. Ancram: Existing further education buildings would have been subject to the building regulations in force at the time they were provided. The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994 apply to all new college buildings. The Department of Education for Northern Ireland does not prescribe specific standards, but it offers advice and guidance on the design and provision of such buildings.

Human Rights

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to produce a discussion or consultation paper on human rights in Northern Ireland,

and what assessment he has made of the political contribution of such a paper to the peace process. [323691]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: The Government stand ready to produce papers on a range of issues likely to arise in future political talks—including human rights—if requested to do so by the participants.

I also hope that the parties to the talks will be ready to set out their own ideas for developing, in ways appropriate under a new political settlement, the extensive existing range of safeguards for human rights.

Higher Education

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if it is his policy that a higher proportion of students from within Northern Ireland than from outside the Province should be able to find a higher education place within the Province; and what is his target figure for each category. [32907]

Mr. Ancram: It is for the higher education institutions themselves to determine admissions policy. In 1993–94, some 82.1 per cent. of full-time undergraduate new entrants to higher education courses in Northern Ireland were of Northern Ireland domicile.

Higher Education (Springvale)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he has now completed his study of the feasibility of establishing a university campus at Springvale; and if he will make the conclusions public. [32909]

Mr. Ancram: The economic appraisal commissioned by my right hon. and learned Friend to consider the university of Ulster's proposal to establish a campus a Springvale is nearing completion. The Secretary of State will wish to consider the findings, alongside other advice, before making his conclusions public in due course.

Nursery Education

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how child care provision and its financing in Northern Ireland will be affected by the Government's proposals for voucher schemes in nursery education; [33826]

(2) how his proposals for nursery education in Northern Ireland will differ from those announced by the Secretary of State for Education. [33825]

Mr. Ancram: The aim in Northern Ireland, as in the rest of the United Kingdom, will be to ensure that all four-year-olds have access to good-quality education. In implementing the initiative here, the Government have to take account of the distinctive features of the Northern Ireland education system—in particular, the different arrangements for compulsory school age. In Northern Ireland, any child whose fourth birthday falls on or before 1 July in a given year starts compulsory primary education in September of that same year. This is different from the position in England, and pre-school arrangements need to take this into account.

The initiative will be based on a system of vouchers for pre-school provision which will give purchasing power to parents and promote consumer choice. More specifically, the parents of four-year-olds who are not statutorily required to attend primary school will be entitled to a voucher for pre-school provision to cover the period from the beginning of the term after their fourth birthday until they reach compulsory school age; the voucher can be used for nursery education, reception class provision, private nurseries or playgroups; it will be exchangeable for a part-time place in a nursery school or private nursery or a full-time place in a playgroup or reception class and its value will be capable of being topped up by parents to meet the costs of a greater level of provision, if they wish it, in either the private or voluntary sectors; and it will be capable of being redeemed only if the provision offered is of a satisfactory educational standard. There will be inspections to ensure that that is so.

As all children begin compulsory schooling in Northern Ireland at the start of the relevant school year, the number of terms of pre-school education will vary depending on when the child's fourth birthday falls. Parents in Northern Ireland will therefore be issued with a voucher which reflects their child's entitlement.

I would stress that these are the entitlements that are conferred by this initiative. It will be open to nursery schools, for example, to offer additional provision where places are available and, of course, it will be open to parents to pay for additional provision in the voluntary or private sectors if they so wish.

I plan that the scheme will be introduced into Northern Ireland in 1997 in line with the proposals for England. Before then there will be consultation with all interested parties on the details of how the initiative will be implemented, including such matters as the standards that must be achieved by those institutions that will be allowed to redeem vouchers, and the inspection arrangements which will apply.

In conclusion, I would stress that this is a major initiative in pre-school education in Northern Ireland. At present, almost half the four-year-olds in Northern Ireland either have no pre-school provision or their parents have to pay for such provision in the private or voluntary sectors. This initiative will for the first time provide the opportunity for all four-year-olds who do not start primary school in the term following their fourth birthday to avail themselves of pre-school education, which will be guaranteed to be of real educational value to them. Importantly, this is being achieved not by cutting back on existing education budgets but by an injection of new money—over £8 million in a full year—to cover the costs. I am sure this will be welcomed by all those interested in the welfare and education of our children as the most significant single initiative we have ever undertaken at this vital stage in our children's development.

Disruptive Pupils

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* research he has conducted into the scale of the problem of disruptive pupils in Northern Ireland, *(b)* guidance he has given to education and library boards about remedies and *(c)* cross-board initiatives he has planned. [33827]

Mr. Ancram: While no specific research has been conducted into the scale of the problem of disruptive pupils in Northern Ireland, the Department of Education

is aware from reports from the inspectorate of the general standards of behaviour in schools throughout the Province. A pilot project aimed at developing strategies to help them improve standards of discipline has been operating in a number of primary and secondary schools in Belfast during the past three years. The department will discuss with the education and library boards and other interested parties what more might be done to support schools and how the strategies developed in the pilot project might be disseminated to all schools in Northern Ireland.

Class Sizes

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland by how much average class sizes have risen in colleges of further education in the past five years. [33786]

Mr. Ancram: The average class sizes over the past five years are set out in the list:

1989–90: 15.2

1990–91: 16.2

1991–92: 15.5

1992–93: 15.3

1993–94: 15.2

Mobile Classrooms

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals he has for a structured programme for the replacement of mobile classrooms at Northern Ireland's schools. [33824]

Mr. Ancram: The replacement of mobile classrooms by permanent accommodation has a high priority in my Department's capital programme and will continue to be addressed within the confines of capital resources at my disposal.

Lecturing Staff

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information he has about the number of full-time and part-time lecturing staff in colleges of further education in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [33785]

Mr. Ancram: The information is as follows:

	Full-time lecturers	*Part-time lecturers*
1990–91	2,192	2,827
1991–92	2,174	2,375
1992–93	2,186	2,346
1993–94	2,199	2,562
1994–95	2,153	3,205

National Vocational Qualification System

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what mechanisms exist for the external verification of the NVQ system in Northern Ireland; how many staff are employed in this matter; and how they are deployed. [33787]

Mr. Ancram: Responsibility for the subject in question has been delegated to the Training and Employment Agency under its chief executive, Mr. J. S. Crozier. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from J. S. Crozier to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 7 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me, as Chief Executive of the Agency, to reply to your question about which mechanisms exist for the external verification fo the NVtion system in Northern Ireland; how many staff are employed in this matter; and how they are deployed.

As in England and Wales, the overall responsibility for the quality assurance of the NVQ system in Northern Ireland rests with the National Council or Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ). However, at operational level, NCVQ works with, and through, Awarding Bodies such as BTEC, City & Guilds, RSA etc who are required to have a process by which they can continuously monitor the consistency and quality of the NVQ assessment system and its support structures.

Awarding Bodies are responsible for verifying that assessment is carried out systematically, validly and to national standards. This is achieved through the use of External Verifiers appointed by the Awarding Body.

Awarding Bodies are required to review the reports of their External Verifiers and to prepare annual consolidated reports which are then made available to NCVQ.

Information on the number of staff who are employed in External Verification and how they are deployed is not available to the Agency, but is a matter for each Awarding Body.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Pensions

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what estimate he has made of the pension, on retirement, of an average earner in each member state of the European Union, expressed as a percentage of final earnings. [31869]

Mr. Heald: Information in the form requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what estimate he has made of the average income of pensioners, on retirement, in each member state of the European Union, expressed as a percentage of final earnings. [31868]

Mr. Heald: The information is not available in the required format.

However, recent independent research[1] comparing 11 countries—including eight EU member states—shows the UK has one of the lowest proportions of older people with incomes below 40 per cent. of average income. The UK has a more equal distribution of income among its older population, and a more effective benefit safety net than many other major industrial countries.

A copy of this publication is in the Library.

[1]Incomes and living standards of older people: a comparative analysis by Peter Whiteford and Steven Kennedy, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, published as DSS Research Report no 34, 1995.

Social Fund

Mr. Brandreth: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security when he intends to publish his annual report on the social fund for 1994–95 and the social fund commissioner's annual report; and if he will make a statement. [34126]

Mr. Roger Evans: The Secretary of State's annual report on the social fund for 1994–95—CM 2885—was published today and has been laid before Parliament. The report records that the gross budget allocated to the discretionary part of the fund at 1 April 1994 was £353 million, and that a further £15 million was allocated to the discretionary loans budget during the course of the year. Total gross expenditure in 1994–95 was £451 million, £9 million higher than in 1993–94 and was the highest annual level of expenditure since the fund was set up in 1988. This included 1.9 million non-repayable grants and interest-free loans worth £366 million and funeral, maternity and cold weather payments worth £85 million.

For the current year, we have increased the gross discretionary budget to £406 million, an increase of £53 million since 1 April 1994. Cold weather payments will also increase from £7 to £8.50 from 1 November 1995.

The cost of funeral payments has risen dramatically in the last five years. Proposals to limit social fund funeral payments to £875 were considered by the Social Security Advisory Committee. On the basis of the recommendations in its report, the Secretary of State introduced a new social fund funeral payment scheme from 5 June 1995 which places a ceiling on the amount payable for specified funeral directors' services but which ensures that the reasonable costs of other necessary disbursements, such as the cost of cremation or burial, will be met in full. These new arrangements mean that funeral payments, especially in the case of burials, could still exceed £1,000.

The social fund commissioner's annual report has also been published today and copies placed in the Library.

Mr. William O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what assessment he has made of the consistency of the local social fund guidance with his Department's guidance; and if he will make a statement. [33688]

Mr. Evans: In January this year, the Benefits Agency issued a bulletin to its district offices about local social fund guidance. This emphasised the need for local guidance to be as consistent as possible with the Secretary of State's guidance, while reflecting local factors, and contained advice on how guidance should be drawn up. The Benefits Agency will be evaluating the impact of this revised local guidance. I understand that the Wakefield district has revised its guidance following issue of the bulletin.

Mortgage Interest

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if interest loans taken out for the purposes of energy conservation to a dwelling occupied as the home will be eligible for payment through income support under the Social Security (Income Support and Claims and Payments) Amendment Regulations 1995; and if he will make a statement. [32925]

Mr. Roger Evans: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Income Support

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many recipients of income support in each region and as a percentage of the total had reductions made from their benefit for *(a)* poll tax arrears, *(b)* fuel bills and *(c)* social fund loan repayments in each year since 1990. [32927]

Mr. Roger Evans: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Darlington (Mr. Milburn) on 1 May, *Official Report* columns *100-111*.

Income-related Benefit Recipients

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was *(a)* the number of children, and *(b)* the number of children as a proportion of all families that were living in families dependent on income-related benefits for each year since 1979 for each region. [32928]

Mr. Roger Evans: Information is not available on a consistent basis for all benefits or prior to 1991. The information that is available is set out in the tables. Data on population are not yet available for 1994.

Proportion of children in each region living in families receiving income-related benefits

	Region										
	North	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*East Midlands*	*East Anglia*	*London (Inner and Outer)*	*South East (including London)*	*South West*	*West Midlands*	*North West*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
1991											
Number of children aged 0–15 (thousands)	628	1,012	816	415	1,340	2,154	900	1,095	1,345	491	1,024
Number of children in families receiving income-related benefits (thousands)	200	280	180	70	410	380	190	320	420	290	160
Proportion in families receiving income-related benefits (per cent.)	31.9	27.7	22.1	16.9	30.6	17.6	21.1	29.2	31.2	49.1	15.6
1992											
Number of children aged 0–15 (thousands)	634	1,024	827	432	1,365	2,177	910	1,104	1,355	59.6	1,026

Proportion of children in each region living in families receiving income-related benefits

	Region										
	North	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*East Midlands*	*East Anglia*	*London (Inner and Outer)*	*South East (including London)*	*South West*	*West Midlands*	*North West*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
Number of children in families receiving income-related benefits (thousands)	210	310	200	80	510	440	210	340	440	320	170
Proportion in families receiving income-related benefits (per cent.)	33.1	30.3	24.2	18.5	37.4	20.2	23.1	30.8	32.5	53.7	16.6
1993											
Number of children aged 0–15 (thousands)	639	1,035	835	415	1,391	2,196	920	1,114	1,367	602	1,032
Number of children in families receiving income-related benefits (thousands)	210	310	220	100	560	510	240	360	480	320	190
Proportion in families receiving income-related benefits (per cent.)	32.9	30	26.3	24.1	40.3	23.2	26.1	32.3	35.1	53.2	18.4

Notes:

1. Child population figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Children in families receiving income-related benefits has been rounded to the nearest 10,000. All percentages have been rounded to one decimal place.
2. Children in families receiving income-related benefits does not include those in families receiving Family Credit or Disability Working Allowance only—a regional breakdown is not available.
3. Children may be in families receiving more than one income-related benefit. Overlaps between benefits have been taken into account.
4. Children are defined as aged 15 and under.
5. Standard statistical regions have been used.

Proportion of children in Great Britain in families receiving an income-related benefit

	1991	*1992*	*1993*
Number of children aged 0–15 (thousands)	11,318	11,433	11,547
Number of children in families receiving Family Credit or Disability Working Allowance only (thousands)	430	500	620
Number of children in families receiving one or more income-related benefits (thousands)	3,340	3,720	4,100
Proportion of children in families receiving one or more income-related benefit (Percentage)	29.5	32.5	35.5

Notes:

1. Child population figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Children in families receiving income-related benefits has been rounded to the nearest 10,000. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest one decimal place.
2. Children may be in families receiving more than one income-related benefit. Overlaps between benefits have been taken into account.
3. Children are defined as aged 15 and under.

Source:

Income Support Statistics May 1991–1993.

Family Credit Statistics April 1991–April 1993.

Disability Working Allowance Statistics 1992–93.

Housing Benefit Management Information System. Enquiries May 1991–1993.

Office of Population, Censuses and Survey mid term estimates 1991–1993.

DEFENCE

Former Yugoslavia

Mr. Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made concerning the setting up of a rapid reaction force for former Yugoslavia. [32730]

Mr. Soames: The formation of UNPROFOR's rapid reaction force is continuing. The multi-national brigade, which includes a British battalion group, is assembling in Bosnia, and initial support elements of 24 Airmobile Brigade deployed to theatre last weekend. Other components of the brigade will follow, in a phased deployment, over the next few weeks.

Australasia 95

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Royal Navy ships are taking part in Australasia 95; which ports the ships are designated to visit on which dates; and what equipment is being carried on the ship for demonstration to potential overseas buyers. [33024]

Mr. Soames: HMS Monmouth, HMS Sheffield and RFA Brambleleaf are taking part in the Australasia 95 deployment. HMS Trenchant, HMS Plover and RFA Diligence are participating with the Australasia 95 ships in some visits and exercises. Between them, the ships are visiting some 25 ports in almost 20 countries. No additional equipment is being carried for sales demonstrations, although appropriate opportunities are being taken to show potential buyers the excellence of Royal Navy ships and equipment.

Iran-Iraq War

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has held with his Chinese counterpart in regard to the provision of munitions to the combatants during the Iran-Iraq war by factories based in China but funded by N.M. Rothschild Bank. [32888]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* I am aware of no such discussions.

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what further reports his Department has received to indicate that British arms firms sold arms to Iran via Singapore during the Iran-Iraq arms embargo; if he will list those companies involved; and if he will make a statement. [29465]

Mr. Freeman *[holding answer 20 June 1995]:* Following the statement by the President of the Board of Trade on BMARC, Departments have, as a prudent measure, started to research some associated areas of defence exports to Singapore. It is too early to draw even tentative conclusions. Any evidence of illegal activity will of course be brought immediately to the attention of Customs and Excise, the independent prosecuting authority, for its consideration.

Sexual Harassment

Mr. Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints of sexual harassment have been filed by service women in the Army, Navy and RAF in the last 10 years; in how many cases disciplinary proceedings were instituted; and what were the results of these proceedings. [32667]

Mr. Soames: My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the procedure followed when a complaint is received from a service woman of sexual harassment. [32668]

Mr. Soames: The policy of the armed forces is that sexual harassment will not be tolerated and complaints are taken very seriously. Complaints are to be investigated sensitively and as quickly as possible. An informal complaint may be made and resolved at unit level. Formal complaints can be made through the redress of complaint procedure established under the Service Discipline Acts. Normally a complaint would be dealt with by the commanding officer, but if it cannot be resolved at that level or the complainant is dissatisfied, it may be referred up the chain of command and ultimately to the Admiralty, Army or Air Force Board. In addition, officers may ask for a service board's decision to be referred to the Sovereign. Following an amendment to the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, service personnel have since 1 February 1995 been able to make complaints direct to an industrial tribunal with a three-month time limit, in line with the provision for civilian employees. If complaints are upheld, appropriate disciplinary or administrative action would be taken against those found responsible.

Portland Naval Base

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what undertakings have been given by his Department regarding future liability for environmental pollution at Portland naval base; and if he will make a statement. [32956]

Mr. Soames: No undertakings regarding future liability for environmental pollution of Her Majesty's naval base Portland have been given by my Department.

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if a clause has been inserted in the sale contract for Portland naval base allowing his Department to obtain a share of any future development gain; and if he will make a statement. [32957]

Mr. Soames: A clause has been inserted in the sale contract to protect the interests of my Department and the taxpayer against any future development gains.

Surplus Land and Property

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those personnel who have left his Department in the last five years to join organisations subsequently involved in the purchase of surplus MoD property; and if he will make a statement. [32962]

Mr. Soames: The information requested is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the surplus land and buildings that have been on sale for over three years; if he will give the date when they were first proposed for sale; if he will give the current position over their disposal; and if he will make a statement. [32958]

Mr. Soames: Two sites, at RAF Northolt and Tern Hill in Shropshire, have been the subject of discussions on their sale to the highway authorities for more than three years. A number of other sites have not been sold, more than three years after being identified for disposal, for a variety of reasons such as the resolution of planning applications or the adoption of utilities services. These sites have not been on sale throughout that period.

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 18 April, *Official Report*, column *225*, if he will list those estate agents and other specialists known to him to have advised his Department on the disposal of surplus land and buildings. [32959]

Mr. Soames: I have nothing to add to the reply that I gave the hon. Member on 18 April, *Official Report*, column *225*.

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if a list of estate agents and other specialists called in to advise the Defence Land Agency on the disposal has now been compiled, as foreshadowed in his answer to the hon. Member for Romsey and Waterside, (Mr. Colvin) on 27 October 1993, *Official Report*, column *701*. [32960]

Mr. Soames: The then Under-Secretary of State for Defence wrote to the hon. Member for Romsey and

Waterside (Mr. Colvin) on 8 November 1993 and a copy of his letter was placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many estate agents and other specialists called in to advise his Department on the sale of surplus property over the last five years have subsequently purchased MOD property themselves; if he will list the transactions; and if he will make a statement. [32961]

Mr. Soames: Records are not maintained in the form requested and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 15 May, on applications from DESO to work in the private sector, *Official Report*, column *51*, if he will name the civil sector company involved. [32965]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The individual concerned was given approval to accept a non-executive directorship in a small steel group with no defence or defence-related interests.

Royal Dockyards

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if a clause will be inserted in the sale contracts for the Royal Naval dockyards to allow his Department a share in any future development gain; and if he will make a statement. [32964]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No decision to sell either royal dockyard has been taken. Should either transaction proceed, appropriate provision will be made for my Department to share in future development gain.

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the progress of the sale of the Devonport and Rosyth royal naval dockyards. [32963]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I refer the hon. Member to the opening paragraphs of the answer that was given to the hon. Member for Dunfermline, West (Ms Squire) on 3 July, *Official Report*, columns *84-90*.

Northumberland and National Park

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what construction work has taken place as a consequence of his Department's decision to train with artillery system 90 and multiple launch rocket system guns in Northumberland national park at *(a)* Catterick, *(b)* the Otterburn training area and *(c)* other locations. [33357]

Mr. Soames: None.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure has been incurred by his Department on military installations and infrastructure as a consequence of his Department's decision to train with artillery system 90 and multiple launch rocket systems gun in Northumberland national park at *(a)* Catterick, *(b)* the Otterburn training area and *(c)* other locations. [33358]

Mr. Soames: None.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of *(a)* the method to be employed for transporting the artillery system 90 and multiple launch rocket system guns from their bases to the Otterburn training area and *(b)* the cost of any facilitating engineering work needed. [33359]

Mr. Soames: The movement implications have been addressed in the environmental impact assessment. The only practical means of moving artillery system 90 and multiple launch rocket system guns from their bases to the Otterburn training area is by use of military tank transporters or civilian low loaders. Vehicles can, however, travel on their own tracks for short journeys of less than 50 miles.

The cost of facilitating works cannot be calculated until our notice of proposed development has been considered by the Northumberland national park authority and, assuming planning consent is granted, any conditions applied to the approval have been properly costed.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he has made a decision in principle to fire the artillery system 90 and multiple launch rocket system guns at Otterburn training area in Northumberland national park. [33363]

Mr. Soames: Yes, subject to planning clearance for the necessary infrastructure developments.

Environmental Policy

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the environmental implications of "Options for Change"; and if he will make a statement. [33360]

Mr. Soames: "Options for Change" involved reductions and changes in the structures of the armed forces. Where these changes involved major developments or intensification of use of the defence estate the environmental implications would normally have been considered on a case by case basis.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the environmental implications for the practices of his Department of the Secretary of State for the Environment's guidance document, "Policy Appraisal and the Environment". [33361]

Mr. Soames: In line with Government policy and guidance contained in such documents as the Department of the Environment's "Policy Appraisal and the Environment", my Department seeks to identify, assess and where practicable minimise the environmental impacts of its current and planned activities. The senior environmental forum within my Department, which is chaired by the Green Minister, seeks to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into all aspects of our policy formulation.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to produce environmental statements for all defence-related infrastructure projects where national security would not be jeopardised by doing so. [33362]

Mr. Soames: My Department is already committed to conducting environmental impact assessments for all major projects and where new, renewed or intensified use is to be made of training areas.

Water Supplies

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for which sites vacated in the last 10 years his Department continue to incur the cost of supplying water; and if he will state the costs involved for each site; [33367]

(2) what has been the annual cost of supplying water to sites owned by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what volume of water has been supplied to such sites in each year; [33366]

(3) how many *(a)* people and *(b)* properties otherwise unassociated with his Department have been permitted to connect into his Department's water supply network in each of the last 10 years; and what volume of water has been thus consumed in each of the last 10 years; [33368]

(4) what has been the cost to his Department in each of the last 10 years of connecting into his Department's water supply network properties otherwise unassociated with his Department; what financial return his Department has received; and what water provision is made by his Department for such properties in the event of the closure of the related site; [33364]

(5) what has been the cost of *(a)* repairing and *(b)* ensuring the potability of his Department's water supply network in each of the last 10 years; and by whom are the activities cited in *(a)* and *(b)* conducted. [33365]

Mr. Soames: The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

British Products

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of British-made defence products his Department purchases. [33355]

Mr. Arbuthnot: As recorded in figure 13 of the "Statement on the Defence Estimates 1995", Cm 2800, we estimate that over the last five years 91 per cent. of my Department's equipment expenditure has been direct with United Kingdom prime contractors—79 per cent.—or on collaborative projects—12 per cent.—where UK industry's work share will generally correspond with my Department's expenditure.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the percentage of United Kingdom industry's *(a)* aerospace output, *(b)* shipbuilding output, *(c)* electronics output and *(d)* ordnance output purchased by his Department. [33356]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department does not regularly monitor the total output of these industrial sectors. However, it has been estimated that, in 1991, the proportion of the output of these sectors which comprised both sales to my Department and defence exports was as follows:

(a) aerospace: 40 per cent.
(b) shipbuilding: 50 per cent.
(c) electronics: 13 per cent.
(d) ordnance: 90 per cent.

Horses

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the annual cost of horse training for the armed forces; where horse training is undertaken; and how many horses are trained each year. [33780]

Mr. Soames: The annual cost of horse training for the armed forces is less than £350,000. Horse training is initially carried out at the defence animal centre at Melton Mowbray. Further training is carried out by the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment at Knightsbridge and Windsor and the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery at St. John's Wood. An average of 40 horses are trained each year.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the annual cost of *(a)* maintaining armed forces horses and *(b)* equipment for armed forces horses. [33781]

Mr. Soames: The annual cost of maintaining armed forces horses is approximately £825,000, including the purchase of food, bedding, medical supplies and shoeing. The cost of equipment for armed forces horses is approximately £160,000 per annum. This figure excludes ceremonial equipment, the costs of which are not recorded centrally and could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Official Cars

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on new cars for senior members of the armed forces in each of the last five years; what makes of cars have been acquired; and which grades of officers and how many in each grade qualify to use them. [33782]

Mr. Soames: The number of vehicles purchased and the amount spent in each of the last five financial years on staff cars for senior officers is as follows:

1991–92: nil
1992–93: 131 at a cost of £1.7 million
1993–94: 7 at a cost of £0.1 million
1994–95: nil
1995–96: nil

The make of vehicle procured in 1992–93 and 1993–94 was the Rover 825D.

At present, the number and grades of officers who qualify for dedicated staff cars are as follows: two at five star level; 16 at four star; 18 at three star; 65 at two star; and two at one star. In addition senior officers not entitled to a dedicated staff car can call on a pool of vehicles which are available for official use.

Military Exports

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the countries to which the United Kingdom has sold military arms or equipment with Government support during the last three years. [32674]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Defence Export Services Organisation within my Department exists to help United Kingdom defence industries to export. DESO assistance has been an important factor in the achievement of military export orders worth on average some £4.5 billion in each of the last five years. The presence and degree of such assistance, however, varies from contract to contract and it would not be practical to produce a list of countries to which UK military exports had been made with assistance from DESO.

Bulldog Aircraft

Mr. John Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to replace the Bulldog aircraft currently in service with the Royal Air Force. [33110]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The British Aerospace Bulldog aircraft has served the Royal Air Force well for over 20 years. The current principal users of the Bulldog are the university air squadrons, and the aircraft is planned to remain in service until at least the year 2010. The Royal Air Force is currently investigating a number of options bearing on the future of the Bulldog fleet and delivery of flying to university air squadrons and air experience flights. As the then Minister said in debate on the Royal Air Force on 4 May 1995, *Official Report*, column 455, we shall carefully examine the economics of replacing the Bulldog compared with those of other options. If, as a result, a recommendation is made that the Bulldog fleet should be replaced before 2010 then a full competition would be needed to select the most suitable replacement.

ENVIRONMENT

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials, to public funds for each year since 1992. [32260]

Mr. Gummer: The information available, which relates to the period since I became Secretary of State, is set out in the table. Information concerning the officials attending is not held centrally, although the costs shown include any costs incurred by private secretaries accompanying Ministers. I should like to thank Ministers and civil servants who have represented the UK so effectively on these occasions and contributed to making us the world leader in environmental protection and a major exporter of environmentally friendly technology. I hope that, in the coming year, we shall be able to do even more to promote British business and British interests in the rest of Europe and abroad.

Ministerial overseas travel 1993

	Duration	*Purpose*	£
Secretary of State			
USA	23–25 June	UN Commission on Sustainable Development	8,995
Luxembourg	28 June	EC Environment Council	764
Belgium	7 September	Bilateral with EC Environment Commissioner	621
Monaco	21–26 September	Promotion of the British Olympic Bid	2,268
France	28–29 November	Bilateral with French Environment Minister	1,901
Belgium	2–3 December	EC Environment Council	1,037
Mr. Yeo			
Luxembourg	28–29 June	EC Environment Council	1,039
China	1–10 September	British construction industry mission to China. Discussion of environmental and construction issues with new Japanese Government	14,337
Luxembourg	5–10 October	EC Environment Council	939
Germany	28 October	Meeting with German Environment Minister about EC Packaging Directive	737
Belgium	9 November	EC symposium on environment and development	474
USA	14–18 November	To study US approach to air pollution, energy management and the use of economic instruments	8,861
Belgium	2 December	EC Environment Council	474
Denmark	7 December	Intermediate Ministerial meeting on the North Sea	992
Belgium	15–16 December	EC Environment Council	626
Mr. Curry			
Netherlands	14–15 September	EC Council of Ministers meeting on Regional Government	441
USA	19 September—2 October	To examine local government and planning practices in the USA and meet counterparts in US Government	10,149
Mr. Ealdry			
Taiwan	29 May–6 June	Construction Trade Mission	6,337
Belgium	23 September	Visit to the "British House" exhibition of British building materials	275
Lord Strathclyde			
Hungary	1–3 June	Energy Efficiency Trade Mission	1,547
South Africa	19–24 September	Water Trade Mission	5,437
Lady Denton			
Belgium	20 October	Meeting of EC Housing Ministers	621

Ministerial overseas travel 1995

	Duration	*Purpose*	£
Secretary of State			
France	3–5 February	Informal EC Environment Council	1,793
Norway	10 February	Round Table Conference on Sustainable Production and Consumption	556
Germany	5–7 April	Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Climate Change	1,694
USA	26 April–1 May	UN Commission on Sustainable Development	12,633
Kenya	20–23 May	UNEP Governing Council	7,943
Germany	29–30 May	Bilateral with the German Environment Minister	744
Denmark	9 June	North Sea Conference	1,300
Luxembourg	22 June	EC Environment Council	1,090
Mr. Atkins			
Belgium	23 January	EC Environment Council	180
Belgium	8 March	EC Environment Council	437
Mr. Curry			
Netherlands	7 May	Meeting on European local government and regeneration	511
The Lord Ullswater			
Netherlands	8 February	Building Exhibition	401
Lebanon/Syria	23–27 April	Construction Trade Mission	2,195
Vietnam	27 May–3 June	Construction Trade Mission	7,806
The Earl of Lindsay			
South Africa	2–6 June	World Environment Day	4,019
South America	15–21 June	Environment Conference	3,114

Ministerial overseas travel 1994

	Duration	*Purpose*	£
Secretary of State			
Czechoslovakia	28–29 January	Global Environment Awards	1,004
Switzerland	16–17 February	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/GATT Meeting	2,192
Italy	12–13 March	G7 Informal Ministerial Meeting	1,485
Belgium	24–25 March	EC Environment Council	2,366
Greece	12–16 May	Informal EC Environment Council	2,515
USA	25–27 May	UN Commission on Sustainable Development	11,303
Luxembourg	8–9 June	EC Environment Council	1,205
Norway	13–14 June	Second Sulphur Protocol Meeting	895
Finland	21–22 June	WHO Conference	1,380
India	25 July	International Forestry Workshop	6,452
Belgium	28 July	Transfer to Brussels to commence leave delayed by Government business	481
Austria	1 August	Bilateral with the Austrian Environment Minister	746
Brazil/Argentina/Chile /Paraguay	3–12 September	Bilaterals with South American Environment Ministers; export promotion and fact-finding mission	11,772
Luxembourg	4 October	EC Environment Council	697
Switzerland	22 November	UNCTAD/UNEP meeting on Trade and Environment	972
Belgium	15 December	EC Environment Council	754
France	21 December	Bilateral with the French Environment Minister	1,211
Mr. Atkins			
Netherlands	22 March	Water conference	548
Belgium	23–25 March	EC Environment Council	1,181
Belgium	15 December	EC Environment Council	416
Sir George Young			
Lebanon	27 April	Construction Industry export promotion	2,800
Kazakhstan	30 May–4 June	Construction Industry export promotion	4,411
Mr. Curry			
Greece	3–5 June	Informal EC Council	1,761
Poland	17–18 October	Ministerial Conference on Local Government	2,982
France	19 October	Thames Corridor Regeneration and "EuroLille" link	612
Belgium	20 October		464

Ministerial overseas travel 1994

	Duration	*Purpose*	*£*
The Earl of Arran			
India	23–26 February	Indo-British Environment initiative meeting	5,666
Barbados	4–6 May	Small islands developing states conference	On behalf of FCO
Denmark	9 May	European "Better Environment Awards for Industry" ceremony	732
Spain	31 May–3 June	Water trade mission	1,656
Mr. Jones			
Czechoslovakia	7 November	Energy Efficiency Trade Mission	1,036
Sir Paul Beresford			
Germany	21 September	EC Informal Council on Spatial Planning	1,021
Australia/New Zealand	16–24 November	OECD Planning Conference	7,784

Parishes

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he will announce his decision on the recommendations of the Local Government Commission to grant parish council status to the city of Salisbury. [32096]

Sir Paul Beresford *[holding answer Monday 3 July 1995]:* In the light of the commission's recommendations and the representations my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment has received, he has decided that the following areas should be parished:

County	*Name of proposed parish*
Berkshire	Newbury
Cornwall	St. Germans
	Seaton and Downderry
Devon	Exmouth
County Durham	Haswell
	South Hetton
East Sussex	Rottingdean
Essex	Loughton
	Buckhurst Hill
	Chigwell
	Great Burstead and South Green
	Little Burstead
	Ramsden Bellhouse
	Ramsden Crays
	Billericay
	Leigh on Sea
	Rayleigh
Gloucestershire	Charlton Kings
Hampshire	Bishopstoke
	Sarisbury
	Warsash
Hereford and Worcester	Malvern
Kent	Deal
	Dover
	Great Mongeham
	Walmer
	Herne and Broomfield
Leicestershire	Great Bowden
	Earl Shilton
Northumberland	Ulgham
	Widdrington Station and Stobswood
Nottinghamshire	Ollerton and Boughton

The commission also recommended the creation of a number of large parishes. My right hon. Friend has carefully considered the advantages of giving these communities the opportunity to exercise the powers enjoyed by parish councils, balances against the potential for conflict between such large parishes and the existing districts or new unitary authorities, and the greater likelihood that larger parishes would fail to reflect small, distinctive and recognisable communities. He has concluded that the following recommendations by the Local Government Commission should be rejected:

County	*Name of proposed parish*
Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury
	High Wycombe
Dorset	Christchurch
Kent	Folkestone
Oxfordshire	Banbury
Somerset	Bridgwater
Wiltshire	Salisbury

My right hon. Friend now proposes to undertake a review of the guidance on the size of parishes which is set out in Department of Environment circular 121/77. As part of that review, he will consider what other criteria should be taken into account in deciding whether parishes should be created, and the weight that those criteria should be given. Subject to the outcome of that review, he will decide then whether to direct the commission to proceed with the further parish reviews it has proposed.

In the light of the representations received about the commission's recommendations for new parishes in the district of Havant in Hampshire and in Surrey, my right hon. Friend will also ask the commission to look again at parishing arrangements in those areas in due course.

My right hon. Friend has also agreed the following minor transfers of land between parishes which were recommended by the commission:

County	*Transfer*
Lincolnshire Swinderby and Swinethorpe	Transfer of land between parishes.
North Yorkshire Sciven and Farnham	Transfer of land between parishes.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he will announce his decisions about the Local Government Commission's recommendations for the creation of new parishes. [34284]

Mr. Gummer: In the light of the commission's recommendations and the representations I have received, I have decided that the following areas should be parished:

County	*Name of proposed parish*
Berkshire	Newbury
Cornwall	St. Germans
	Seaton and Downderry
Devon	Exmouth
County Durham	HaswellSouth Hetton
East Sussex	Rottingdean
Essex	Loughton
	Buckhurst Hill
	Chigwell
	Great Burstead and South Green
	Little Burstead
	Ramsden Bellhouse
	Ramsden Crays
	Billericay
	Leigh on Sea
	Rayleigh
Gloucestershire	Charlton Kings
Hampshire	Bishopstoke
	Sarisbury
	Warsash
Hereford and Worcester	Malvern
Kent	Deal
	Dover
	Great Mongeham
	Walmer
	Herne and Broomfield
Leicestershire	Great Bowden
	Earl Shilton
Northumberland	Ulgham
	Widdrington Station and Stobswood
Nottinghamshire	Ollerton and Boughton

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	High Wycombe
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Somerset	Bridgwater
Wiltshire	Salisbury

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I have also agreed the following minor transfers of land between parishes which were recommended by the commission.

County	*Transfer*
Lincolnshire	Transfer of land between Swinderby and Swinethorpe parishes
North Yorkshire	Transfer of land between Sciven and Farnham parishes

Air Quality

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) if he will implement the recommendation of the first report of the quality of urban air review group in respect of an enhanced urban network monitoring station for Coventry; [32807]

(2) if all the sites identified in the first report of the quality of urban air review group have or will have an enhanced urban network monitoring station; [32805]

(3) if he will reimburse Coventry the running costs of Coventry's OPSIS system to monitor air quality pending the installation of an enhanced urban network monitoring station; [32809]

(4) when Coventry will have an enhanced urban network monitoring station. [32806]

Mr. Clappison: Of the 24 towns and cities identified in the first report of the quality of urban air review group, QUARG, as priorities for air quality monitoring, 22 have, or will have, a Department of the Environment funded automatic urban monitoring station by the end of 1996. The location of two further sites will be announced later this year.

Meanwhile, the Government have announced their intention to integrate 35 local authority sites into a harmonised national network. The decision on the location of the two new centrally funded sites will therefore also take account of the results of consultation on which such sites should be integrated.

The Government have made no commitment to reimburse local authorities for the costs of any air quality monitoring which they may themselves already have introduced.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what advice he gives to Coventry in the absence of an enhanced urban network monitoring station in the respect of the monitoring of air quality. [32808]

Mr. Clappison: The Government published "Air Quality—Meeting the Challenge" on 19 January 1995, setting out their strategic proposals for assessing and managing air quality in the UK. The Government have introduced amendments to the Environment Bill to implement their proposals. The amendments provide for a national strategy for air quality and a new system of local air qualify management under which local

authorities will assess air quality in their area and, where it falls short of targets, declare air quality management areas and produce a remedial plan. The Government intend to issue guidance to all local authorities, including Coventry, on how to undertake such an assessment at around the end of this year.

The Government are proceeding at the same time with expansion of UK air quality monitoring networks, including the integration of 35 local authority monitoring sites. In addition, the Department of the Environment will fund 13 new automatic urban monitoring stations to be set up by the end of 1996. The location of 11 of these sites has already been determined. The locations of the other two will be announced later this year.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement as to the progress being made to improve air quality if Coventry and the west midlands. [32810]

Mr. Clappison: The Government have introduced amendments to the Environment Bill to implement a new framework for air quality management and expect to publish later this year their draft strategy for improving air quality throughout the United Kingdom.

Secondary Liquid Fuels

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what discussions he has had with the Health and Safety Executive concerning the burning of waste products as fuels for cement kilns; and if he will make a statement. [33095]

Mr. Clappison: Her Majesty's inspectorate of pollution has consulted the Health and Safety Executive on the permanent burning of secondary liquid fuels in cement plants at Clitheroe and Barrington. It will do so for other plants where an application for permanent burning is received.

Mr. Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the consequences of burning waste products as fuels for cement kilns for communities near cement factories. [33094]

Mr. Clappison: The burning of substitute fuels based on waste products in cement kilns is currently allowed by Her Majesty's inspectorate of pollution for short-term trials only. This is being done under a strict regime of controls and extensive monitoring as announced by the Minister for the Environment and Countryside in answer to a parliamentary question of 23 June 1994. HMIP will not allow the permanent burning of substitute fuels if there is any net adverse environmental effect.

Rent-to-mortgage Scheme

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answer of 6 December 1994, *Official Report*, column *131*, how many rent-to-mortgage sales have now been completed. [33240]

Mr. Clappison: Local authorities in England reported 11 completed sales under rent-to-mortgage by the end of March 1995.

Staff Shareholdings

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the past five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33417]

Sir Paul Beresford: Ten officers have declared shareholdings further to the rules set out in my Department's staff handbook. The companies were:

Tarmac
Thames Water (3)
Anglian Water
Severn Trent Water
Yorkshire Water
South West Water
WRC plc
SERCO

Two of these were advised to dispose of their holdings. The companies concerned were Tarmac and WRC plc.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the past five years; [33571]

(2) if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33438]

Sir Paul Beresford: The information requested is not held centrally by my Department and is obtainable only at disproportionate cost.

Cleveland

Mr. Simon Coombs: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what decision he has reached on the recommendation of the Local Government Commission that the county of Cleveland should be abolished and its area divided, for ceremonial and related purposes, between the historic counties of Durham and Yorkshire. [33838]

Mr. Gummer: In my answer of 18 January 1994 to the hon. Member for Langbaurgh (Mr. Bates), *Official Report*, column *581–82*, I said that I had accepted in principle that the county of Cleveland should be abolished, but deferred a final decision until I had reached decisions on the commission's recommendations for Durham and North Yorkshire. In the light of my decisions on those two counties, and following consultation, I am now able to confirm my decision that the county of Cleveland should be abolished. I have also decided that, for ceremonial and related purposes, the county area north of the River Tees should be associated with County Durham, and the area south of the River Tees with North Yorkshire, restoring the traditional boundary between Durham and Yorkshire.

Offshore Industry (Environmental Impacts)

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make funds available for marine biologists to carry out independent assessments of the environmental impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry, separate to those commissioned by the industry itself. [31696]

Mr. Clappison: The offshore industry is required to carry out various environmental studies as part of the processes for approval of offshore activities. Information from such studies is reviewed by marine scientists at the relevant fisheries departments responsible for assessing the impact of the offshore industry on the marine environment.

Environment Council

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will place in the Library a full set of English translations of the documents discussed at the EU Environment Council on 22 and 23 June; and on what date he expects to be able to do so. [31697]

Mr. Clappison: The documents discussed at the Council were Council working documents and are not depositable. However, some documents were made available to the Select Committee on European Legislation on an informal basis to assist with scrutiny procedures, as no recent depositable texts were available. Of these documents, the French version of one text had earlier been attached to an unnumbered explanatory memorandum for the same reason. The English translation of this text will be submitted to the House under cover of an addendum to the memorandum.

Inspectors

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many full-time Health and Safety Executive inspectors were employed in Scotland in each year since 1990–91. [33542]

Sir Paul Beresford: The table shows the number of full-time health and safety inspectors based in the Health and Safety Executive's field operations division area offices in Scotland:

Year (1 April)	*Number*
1990	79
1991	92
1992	98
1993	104
1994	106
1995	97

The figures comprise factory inspectors, agricultural inspectors, specialist inspectors, quarries inspectors and railway inspectors.

Welsh Correspondence

Mr. Ron Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is his policy on signing correspondence written in Welsh. [33789]

Mr. Gummer: The hon. Gentleman has to the best of my knowledge never sent a communication to me in Welsh. Were he to do so I should be happy to reply in Welsh, but the hon. Gentleman may feel it best to forward a translation into English of his constituent's letter so that there is no misunderstanding between us as to the points raised.

Direct Labour and Service Organisations

Mr. Deva: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what further action he proposes to take against those local authorities whose direct labour and direct service organisations failed to meet their statutory financial objectives in 1993–94. [34236]

Sir Paul Beresford: On 11 April this year, 36 statutory notices were served on 25 local authorities concerning the failure of their direct labour and service organisations (DLOs/DSOs) to meet the required financial objective in 1993–94. My right hon. Friend has now considered the responses to those notices, and has today given directions to Carrick district council sports and leisure management; Cleveland county council, grounds maintenance; Croydon London borough council, grounds maintenance, sports and leisure management; Haringey London borough council, other catering; Kettering borough council, building maintenance; Leicestershire county council, grounds maintenance; Runnymede borough council, sports and leisure management; Scunthorpe borough council, refuse collection; South Lakeland district council, building maintenance and Watford borough council, other catering.

The directions take three different forms:

requiring the authority to retender all or part of the work, and to seek the Secretary of State's prior consent should they wish to award the work in-house. The work would need to be retendered or a new contract would need to have been awarded by specific dates: Carrick, sports and leisure management; Cleveland, grounds maintenance; Croydon London borough council, sports and leisure management; Haringey other catering; Leicestershire, grounds maintenance; Runnymede, sports and leisure management and Watford, other catering.

preventing the authority from carrying out the work if it fails to meet the required financial objective in 1995–96: South Lakeland, building maintenance.

requiring the authority to retender the work if it fails to meet the required financial objective in a specified financial year or years, and to seek the Secretary of State's prior consent where the work has to be retendered and where the authority subsequently wish to award the work in-house:

1995–96: Croydon, grounds maintenance; Scunthorpe, refuse collection.

1995–96 and 1996–97: Kettering, building maintenance.

The Secretary of State has also decided to take no further statutory action in respect of financial failure in 1993–94 by Avon, grounds maintenance; Barnsley, sports and leisure management; Derby, building cleaning, sports and leisure management; Doncaster, grounds maintenance; Ealing, other catering; Easington, grounds maintenance, highways and sewers, new construction over £50,000, other catering, other cleaning; Greenwich, building maintenance, Halton, building maintenance, grounds maintenance, other catering; North Hertfordshire, other cleaning; Reigate and Banstead, grounds maintenance; Stafford, building maintenance, other catering, other cleaning; Thanet, other catering; Walsall, highways and sewers and Wyre, building maintenance.

Decisions on Lincolnshire county council's failure to meet the financial objective for highways and sewers work, and Walsall metropolitan borough council's failure to meet the financial objective for other catering have been deferred and will be announced at a later date.

Eco-management and Audit Scheme

Mr. Booth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what progress has been made on registrations under the EC eco-management and audit scheme. [34285]

Mr. Gummer: I am delighted to be able to tell the hon. Gentleman that the National Accreditation Council for Certification Bodies has accredited the first three verifiers for the EC's eco-management and audit scheme. I congratulate the new verifiers, and I look forward to receiving the first applications for EMAS registration very shortly.

EMAS is an important initiative which provides a powerful voluntary framework for securing environmental improvements. I hope that businesses in the United Kingdom will respond positively and will be among the leaders in Europe in demonstrating a proactive approach to environmental issues.

Departmental Review

Sir Kenneth Carlisle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when the report of the review of the Department of the Environment will be issued. [34294]

Mr. Gummer: The report of the review of my Department is being issued today. It makes a number of recommendations concerning the structure, organisation and working methods of the Department. I have arranged for copies of the report to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 12 July 1995

HEALTH

Administration Costs

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the cost of administration in the NHS within *(a)* trusts, *(b)* district health authorities, regional health authorities and family health service authorities and *(c)* in total, in real terms and as a percentage of total NHS expenditure in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1990–91. [30434]

Mr. Malone: The figures for administrative support in hospital departments, in trusts and at other levels, are regarded as operational expenditure and are not separately identifiable.

Changes over the years in the roles and responsibilities of FPCs, which became family health services authorities, in 1990, and RHAs and DHAs which started to transfer provider functions to NHS trusts in 1991–92, and together with changes in accounting policies, particularly the inclusion of capital charges in health authorities' administration and purchasing expenditure, mean that the following figures are not comparable. Additionally, there were differences in management practices, geographical size and the numbers of DHAs, FPCs/FHSAs within regions.

In 1990–91, the cost of administration in district health authorities, regional health authorities, and family practitioner committees, was £854,571,000, equivalent to £973,284,000 adjusted to 1993–94 prices; in 1993–94 the figure was £1,045,084,000. For an explanation of these figures, I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Darlington (Mr. Milburn) on 16 December 1994, columns *833–34*. In 1990–91, revenue expenditure for the national health service was £19,826,937,000 equivalent to £22,581,196,000 adjusted to 1993–94 prices; in 1993–94, the figure was £27,627,018,000. In 1990–91, administration accounted for 4.31 per cent. of revenue expenditure and in 1993–94, 3.78 per cent.

Continuing Care

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action he has taken to produce a seamless service between health authorities and social service departments in respect of the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990; if he will help set up a working party to *(a)* advise on best practice in working relationships between (i) community health councils, (ii) district health authorities and (iii) social services departments, *(b)* consider the benefits of introducing a unified purchaser organisation fully accountable to the public and *(c)* examine how the statutory remit of community health councils can be extended to enable them to monitor care in the community services provided by local authorities, and if he will make a statement. [32995]

Mr. Bowis: Local authority and health authority collaboration is crucial for the implementation of the community care arrangements. Local authorities have been required to reach agreements with health authorities on their respective responsibilities for long-term care and procedures for hospital discharge.

A multi-disciplinary working group looking at joint commissioning between local authorities and health authorities published two documents recently, "An introduction to joint commissioning" and "Practical guidance on joint commissioning for project leaders", copies of which are available in the Library.

We have no plans to establish a working party on collaboration between community health councils, district health authorities and social services departments.

Single integrated health authorities are being introduced from 1 April 1996. Codes of conduct and accountability were published last year and are mandatory for all NHS boards. Compliance is a condition of appointment for all board members, both executive and non-executive.

We have no plans to extend the role of CHCs to monitor mental health care in the community services provided by local authorities.

Guidance issued in January 1994, EL(94)4, acknowledged that the community care arrangements would require health and local authorities to work closely together in the planning and delivery of care services. As such, the guidance pointed out that CHCs may find it useful to discuss with local authority social services departments the role that they play in joint health and social services arrangements.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will withdraw his Department's publication in respect of guidance on NHS continuing care and issue a revised publication consistent with the principles of a comprehensive national health service free at the point of delivery and available on the basis of clinical need; and if he will make a statement. [33035]

Mr. Bowis: No. Once implemented, this guidance should lead to a substantial improvement in the provision of a full range of continuing health care services. As well as continuing in-patient care for people who need it, this includes specialist national health service support for people to meet their medical, nursing or other clinical needs, no matter where they live.

Eye Tests

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of restoring free eye tests to pensioners. [33142]

Mr. Malone: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave to the right hon. Member for Derby, South (Mrs. Beckett) on 19 January at column *638*.

Prescriptions

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will guarantee the rights of rural general practitioners to dispense prescriptions irrespective of the opening of pharmacies in their locality. [33660]

Mr. Malone: The conditions which govern the rights of general practitioners to dispense medicines and appliances are contained in the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1992, copies of which are available in the Library.

Leg Ulcers

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department has given to making available on prescription the four-layer bandage system for the treatment of leg ulcers. [33076]

Mr. Sackville: No applications have been received for the prescribing of a product which incorporates the four types of item used within this system. The community health service may purchase any of the dressings, which can be used as individual components of the system, as well as a combined pack of four particular items.

Cardiologists

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is his latest estimate of the number of specialist cardiologists in post in the NHS in England; and if he will list the numbers for each of the previous five years. [33325]

Mr. Malone: The available information is shown in the table.

Year	*Consultant*
1988	117.4
1989	127.3
1990	135.6
1991	147.8
1992	162.1
1993	180.3

Children Act 1989

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of standard spending assessment is earmarked to assist local authorities to implement the Children Act 1989; [33062]

(2) what representations he has received regarding the funding to councils to implement the Children Act 1989. [33063]

Mr. Bowis: Standard spending assessments are not earmarked for particular Acts. It is for local authorities to decide how to divide the overall resources at their disposal between individual services. Between 1990–91—the last full year before implementation of the Act—and 1992–93—the first full year after implementation—the standard spending assessment for children's services grew by 15 per cent. in real terms.

Residual Estate

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what has happened to properties and assets not vested by NHS trusts. [33935]

Mr. Sackville: Property and other assets not transferred to national health service trusts remain in the ownership of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

NHS Appointees

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what investigations his Department or the NHS executive has undertaken into conflicts of interest involving either trust board or health authority members. [33938]

Mr. Malone: None. Under the codes of conduct and accountability, chairmen and directors of national health service authorities and trusts are required to declare any private interests that are potentially material and relevant to NHS business and to have those interests recorded in board minutes and entered into a register.

Information Division

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the budget for staff and running costs, excluding expenditure on publicity, in the information division in his Department in each of the last 10 years. [33694]

Mr. Sackville: The available information, which excludes expenditure on publicity campaigns, is shown in the table. The information division now includes a public inquiry office and a central print unit which provides the Department with services for print and paper procurement and storage and distribution. The figures are therefore not comparable over the years.

Year	*Manpower and running costs £ million*
1989–90	0.890
1990–91	1.250
1991–92	1.491
1992–93	1.749
1993–94	1.897
1994–95	2.018
1995–96[1]	2.714

Information for the years 1986–87 to 1988–89 is not available in form requested.

[1] budgets

Departmental Staff

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what are the numbers and salaries of persons employed in the private offices of each of the Ministers, including the Secretary of State, in his Department. [33695]

Mr. Sackville: The number of staff employed in the private offices of Ministers of the Department of Health, including the office of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, is 27.

The analysis of their salaries is:

Number of staff	*Salary band £*
12	10,000—14,999
10	15,000—19,999
3	20,000—24,999
2	40,000—49,999
27	

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency departments have been temporarily closed in each of the last 24 months for *(a)* blue light admissions and *(b)* walking wounded cases; and if he will make a statement on (i) staff shortages and (ii) other causes of these incidents. [33696]

Mr. Sackville: This information is not available centrally.

Private Health Care

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *105*, if he will list for each NHS trust, the expenditure on the purchase of health care from non-NHS bodies, in each of the past four years. [33709]

Mr. Sackville: The latest available figures are for the financial year 1993–94. Figures for 1991–92, 1992–93, and 1993–94 will be placed in the Library.

Leaving Care

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research his Department has carried out into the types of accommodation which young people go into on leaving care; [33834]

(2) what research his Department has carried out into the value and availability of leaving care grants. [33835]

Mr. Bowis: The Department commissioned a four-year study by Leeds university leaving care research team into schemes available to young people leaving care. This study was published on the 30 June 1995. Copies of the study will be placed in the Library.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33886]

Mr. Sackville: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33874]

Mr. Sackville: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The daily rates charged by firms of consultants would vary according to the number of consultants assigned to individual projects.

Clinical Negligence Claims

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, column *340*, if he will provide such information as is available on clinical negligence claims by trust. [33939]

Mr. Malone: Information about clinical negligence claims by trust is not available centrally.

Patient Care

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will institute an inquiry into the death of the patient from Slough who received cardiac surgery at the University hospital of Wales, Cardiff on Friday 7 July, into the shortage of intensive care beds allied with open heart surgery facilities and into the lack of a hospital to hospital information on bed availability. [33837]

Mr. Sackville: I have no plans to institute such an inquiry.

A study commissioned by the Department of Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has shown that demand for intensive care beds can very and in some instances, beds are being used inappropriately.

The need for guidelines on admission to, and discharge from, intensive care is being considered by the Department of Health, together with representatives of the medical profession.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33868]

Mr. John M. Taylor: For the period 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995, certain key elements of work completed under six external consultancy contracts were paid for at a daily rate exceeding £1,000.

The firms in question are:

Binder, Hamlyn and Fry

Ernst and Young

Kinsley Lord

KPMG

Office of Public Management

Price Waterhouse

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33865]

Mr. Taylor: The chief executives of the Land Registry and the Public Records Office will respond on behalf of their agencies. The chief executives of the Public Trust Office and Court Service will also respond on behalf of their agencies for expenditure from 1 July 1994 and 3 April 1995 respectively. Expenditure on computer consultancy for the remainder of the Department for the 1994–95 financial year was £387,574—see footnote. The information for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Future expenditure on computer consultancy will be considered as the need arises.

Letter from Elizabeth Hallam Smith to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 12 July 1995:

EXPENDITURE ON COMPUTER CONSULTANCY

I have been asked by the Lord Chancellor's Parliamentary Secretary, in the absence on leave of the Chief Executive of the Public Record Office, to reply to your question about expenditure on computer consultancy.

The Public Record Office has spent the following sums on computer consultancy over the last five years:

1990–91: £45,743

1991–92: £150,861

1992–93: £442,151

1993–94: £240,703

1994–95: £63,325

Expected expenditure over the next five years is approximately £828,000.

Letter from Michael Huebner to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 12 July 1995:

COMPUTER CONSULTANCY

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question concerning the cost of computer consultancy.

I should first explain that the Court Service became an Executive Agency on 3 April this year. Information about the amount spent in the last financial year will therefore be provided by the Parliamentary Secretary. I understand that figures for previous years are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The anticipated cost of computer consultancy for the Court Service in the current and following three financial years is as follows:

1995–96: £707,544

1996–97: £1,363,900

1997–98: £1,264,900

1998–99: £1,133,100

The requirements beyond these financial years are not yet known.

Letter from Julia C. Lomas to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 12 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary has asked me to reply to you as part of the Lord Chancellor's Department's response to your Parliamentary Question. listed on 7 July 1995, regarding the spending on computer consultancy in the last five years and the expected expenditure over the next five years.

The Public Trust Office has spent no money on computer consultancy in the last five years. This year, however, we intend carrying out an Information System Strategy Study with the aid of consultants although it is not possible to forecast expenditure on this study at this stage.

Letter from John Manthorpe to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 12 July 1995:

I have been asked by the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department to reply to your recent question about the amount spent by this Agency on computer consultancy in the last five years, and the expected expenditure over the next five years. The details are as follows:-

1990–91: £11,403

1991–92: £40,803

1992–93: £33,547

1993–94: £29,023

1994–95: £45,261

Expected Expenditure:

1995–96: £151,000

1996–97: £147,000

1997–98: £150,000

1998–99: £115,000

1999–2000: £115,000

The increase in planned expenditure over previous years is due to three major new initiatives. These are the proposed outsourcing of the management of data communications for our Direct Access Service, the development of a business application for a National Land Information Service, and the development of a computer mapping system.

I do hope that this answers the points raised with the Parliamentary Secretary, but please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33897]

Mr. Taylor: The chief executives of the Land Registry and the Public Records Office will respond on behalf of their agencies. The chief executive of the Public Trust Office will also respond as appropriate on behalf of this agency for expenditure from 1 July 1994.

The firms which have been awarded computer consultancy contracts from the remainder of my Department during the 1994–95 financial year are shown on the table—see footnote.

Information for earlier financial year could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Name	*Number of contracts*
Act Business Systems	1
Admiral Computing	3
AMTEC Consulting	1
W. S. Atkins Technology	1
Bull Information Systems	1
Class	1
CSS. Trident	1
Digital Equipment Co	1
Grasshopper Computers	1
Helistar	1
Hewlett Packard	1
Insight Computing	1
LBMS	1
MBA Consultants	2
Metron	1
Myriad Computer Services	9
Oracle Corporation	2
Parity	1
Parity Solutions	1
PC Associates	1
Property Logistics	1
Public Sector Software	1
Scoll	1

Includes the Court Service and, until 30 June 1994, the PTO.

Letter from John Manthorpe to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 12 July 1995:

COMPUTER CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS

I have been asked by the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department to reply to your recent question about the firms which have won computer consultancy contracts from this Agency over the last five years, and the number of contracts per firm. The names of the firms or organisations awarded contracts during this period are given in alphabetical order, as follows:-

Belvedere Associates

CCTA

Dynamic Communications

IBM

Intergraph

Lasercom

Secure Information Systems Limited

Sun Accounts

Each of the firms listed was awarded one contract except for Dynamic Communications which was awarded two contracts of a total value of £3,031.

I do hope that this answers the points raised with the Parliamentary Secretary, but please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Letter from Julia C. Lomas to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 12 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary has asked me to reply to you as part of the Lord Chancellor's Department's response to your Parliamentary Question, listed on 7 July 1995, regarding the firms which have won computer consultancy contracts over the last five years.

The Public Trust Office has not awarded any computer consultancy contracts over the last five years.

Letter from Elizabeth Hallam Smith to Mr. Alan Milburn dated 12 July 1995:

COMPUTER CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS

I have been asked by the Lord Chancellor's Parliamentary Secretary, in the absence on leave of the Chief Executive of the Public Record Office, to reply to your question about computer consultancy contracts.

The following firms have won computer consultancy contracts from the Public Record Office over the last five years. The number of contracts won by each is stated in the second column:

	Number
AXSIS	1
Cray (formerly Aims)	2
CIMTECH	1
Data Sciences	1
EFD	2
EOSYS	1
Ernst & Young	2
HEDRA	2
Portlock Communications	1
ROYBOT Ltd	2
SISL	2
Touche Ross	1
WS Atkins	1

Magistrates (Wales)

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what is the perceived political loyalty of magistrates in each county in Wales appointed in each of the past seven years. [32103]

Mr. Taylor *[holding answer 5 July 1995]:* The stated political affiliation of magistrates in each county in Wales appointed in each of the past seven years is as follows:

Clwyd

Year	*Conservative*	*Labour*	*Liberal/Democrat*	*Plaid Cymru*	*Independent*	*Not known*	*Total*
1989	11	7	4	3	0	0	25
1990	5	9	5	2	2	0	23
1991	4	8	0	2	3	0	17
1992	18	10	9	1	1	0	39
1993	11	6	7	0	0	0	24
1994	9	6	5	1	0	0	21
1995[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] No appointments yet made in 1995.

Dyfed

Year	*Conservative*	*Labour*	*Liberal/Democrat*	*Plaid Cymru*	*Independent*	*Not known*	*Total*
1989	6	1	3	1	1	0	12
1990	3	3	4	0	0	3	13
1991	5	6	3	3	2	0	19
1992	6	2	3	0	5	0	16
1993	4	7	5	3	5	0	24
1994	1	4	2	1	4	0	12
1995[1]	1	0	2	4	2	0	9

[1] Additional appointments are expected in 1995.

Mid Glamorgan

Year	*Conservative*	*Labour*	*Liberal/Democrat*	*Plaid Cymru*	*Independent*	*Not known*	*Total*
1989	3	7	2	0	2	0	14
1990	6	11	0	1	0	1	19
1991	6	13	0	0	6	0	25

Mid Glamorgan

Year	Conservative	Labour	Liberal/Democrat	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Not known	Total
1992	3	11	1	1	0	0	16
1993	4	5	4	1	0	0	14
1994	3	7	2	1	3	0	16
1995	2	4	1	0	0	0	7

South Glamorgan

Year	Conservative	Labour	Liberal/Democrat	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Not known	Total
1989	7	1	5	0	3	0	16
1990	7	6	6	1	3	0	23
1991	7	2	3	2	3	0	17
1992	9	6	6	1	0	3	25
1993	10	9	3	1	3	0	26
1994	6	8	2	0	5	0	21
1995[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] No appointments yet made in 1995.

West Glamorgan

Year	Conservative	Labour	Liberal/Democrat	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Not known	Total
1989	12	12	3	0	1	0	28
1990	9	8	4	0	2	0	23
1991	8	6	1	0	0	0	15
1992	8	12	5	0	0	0	25
1993	8	5	2	1	4	0	20
1994	1	13	7	1	1	0	23
1995	0	9	0	0	2	0	11

Gwent

Year	Conservative	Labour	Liberal/Democrat	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Not known	Total
1989	4	5	3	0	1	0	13
1990	6	3	0	0	3	0	12
1991	6	4	3	0	0	0	13
1992	2	6	2	0	0	0	10
1993	5	5	1	0	1	0	12
1994	3	12	1	0	2	0	18
1995	3	5	0	0	2	0	10

Gwynedd

Year	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Not known	Total
1989	4	0	2	2	0	0	8
1990	5	4	1	3	4	0	17
1991	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
1992	3	2	6	3	0	0	14
1993	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
1994	1	0	0	4	0	0	5
1995[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] No appointments yet made in 1995.

Powys

Year	Conservative	Labour	Liberal/Democrat	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Not known	Total
1989	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1990	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1991	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
1992	2	0	1	1	2	0	6
1993	2	2	3	1	1	1	10
1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1995[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] No appointments yet made in 1995.

Mental Incapacity

Mr. Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department who is serving upon the Lord Chancellor's interdepartmental working party which is working on the Government's response to the Law Commission report on mental incapacity; which Departments they represent; and if he will list those court decisions which have found advance directives legally binding and which form the basis of policy in this area. [33976]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The working group is made up of officials from the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Department of Health, the Home Office, the Department of Social Security, the Welsh Office and the Treasury.

Certain forms of advance directive already have full legal effect at common law. The dicta in *Re T* (Adult Refusal of Treatment) [1993] Fam 95 together with those in Airedale Trust *v.* Bland [1993] AC 789 in both the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords indicate that an advance refusal which is "clearly established" and "applicable in the circumstances" may be as effective as the decision of a capable adult. The case of *Re C* (Adult Refusal of Treatment) [1994] 1 WLR 290 clarified the position.

Judicial Appointments

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department (1) what is the practice of the Lord Chancellor's Department in respect of the number of names provided to the Prime Minister in respect of each senior judicial appointment; [32862]

(2) how many names were offered to the Prime Minister in respect of the appointment of the Lord Chief Justice in 1992. [32863]

Mr. John M. Taylor: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on Monday 3 July, *Official Report*, column *18*. It is not the practice to disclose information about communications between Ministers.

Small Claims Limit

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what plans he has to raise the small claims limit; what is the proposed time scale; and what plans he has for a consultation period. [32706]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The small claims limit fell within the scope of the first stage of Lord Woolf's review of access to justice. During this review, Lord Woolf himself conducted an extensive consultation exercise including a programme of public seminars. A list of the individuals and organisations who contributed to the inquiry is annexed to the interim report, which was published last month. In view of that wide-ranging consultation, the Lord Chancellor does not intend to undertake further public consultation on the question of whether he should implement Lord Woolf's recommendation that the limit for small claims, other than those for personal injury, should be raised to £3,000. The power to make the necessary amendments rests with the county court rules committee which, as part of its consideration of the matter, will consult interested parties. No timetable has yet been set for the laying of a statutory instrument before the House.

Statutes

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will give the numbers and percentages of statutes from *(a)* 1990 and earlier, *(b)* 1985 and earlier and *(c)* 1980 and earlier whose provisions are not fully in force. [32942]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Of some 3,300 public general Acts which were enacted before the end of 1990, and remain on the statute book, approximately 100—3 per cent.—have not been brought fully into force. The figures for 1985 and 1980 are respectively 60 and 2 per cent. and 40 and 1 per cent.

PRIME MINISTER

Questions of Procedure for Ministers

Dr. Wright: To ask the Prime Minister how many members of the parliamentary Conservative party, including parliamentary private secretaries, unpaid Whips and others, were subject to collective responsibilityas defined in "Questions of Procedure for Ministers" on 4 July. [33651]

The Prime Minister: The 108 Members of the Conservative party who hold ministerial office.

Nursery Education

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Prime Minister, pursuant to his oral answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 512–13, concerning the introduction of nursery education for all four year-olds, (1) by how many he expects the number of attendances of children of this age group to increase for each year commencing September 1996 up to 2000 due to *(a)* a reduction in the proportion of four year-old receiving full-time nursery education and *(b)* a reduction in the proportion of the three year-olds receiving full-time nursery education; [33979]

(2) what is the increase in the number of nursery school places he expects to be available for this age group for each year commencing September 1996 up to 2000 arising from *(a)* an increase in the number of qualified nursery school teachers and *(b)* places made available by a reduction in the proportion of attendances by three year-olds, full or part-time. [33980]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Employment on 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517–19. The number and type of places which become available will depend on parental demand and providers' response to it. The proposed funding method will allow local education authorities and other providers to continue to supply as many full-time places and places for three-year-olds as they do now.

TREASURY

Voluntary Organisations

Miss Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many voluntary sector organisations his Department has *(a)* paid grants to or *(b)* entered into contracts with in (i) 1993–94 and (ii) 1994–95; and what was the total value of these grants and contracts. [31302]

Mrs. Angela Knight: None.

Beverage Containers (Disposal)

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that the treatment of beverage containers confiscated by HM Customs and Excise conform with the Government's waste management strategy of reuse and recovery rather than disposal. [33221]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: Customs and Excise is committed to support the Government's sustainable development strategy and this is reflected in the action that it has taken on the disposal of beverage containers.

Following a consultants' report on the best environmental options for the disposal of seized goods Customs intends to let a contract, or contracts, which will cover the disposal of beverage containers. It will seek the optimum recovery of liquor and packaging—glass, aluminium, cardboard and plastics—from these contracts.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33420]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The information requested is not held centrally.

Labour Statistics (Coventry)

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list separately, by each office of his Department, the numbers and grades of casuals, fixed appointments and vacancies in the Coventry travel-to-work area. [33777]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The Treasury has no offices in the Coventry travel-to-work area.

Pensioners (Tax)

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners pay tax at 40 per cent. [32523]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* Based on the latest estimates, only 1.5 per cent.—about 150,000 of the 10 million people aged 65 or over—are expected to pay income tax at 40 per cent. in 1995–96.

Income Tax Allowances

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what would be the cost of raising the personal income tax allowance by £500; and how many people would be removed from the tax net as a result. [32532]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 5 July 1995]:* The direct revenue cost would be about £3.2 billion in a full year at 1995–96 income levels and about a million taxpayers would be removed from tax.

Value Added Tax

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* VAT registrations and *(b)* VAT deregistrations have taken place in each county area in each (i) financial year since 1989–90- and (ii) calendar year since 1989. [32985]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* Customs and Excise holds registration and deregistration information by local offices and groups these offices to form collections. The following tables, which contain the information sought, reflect changes to the VAT registration and deregistration thresholds, particularly for the significant increase of 1991 and, to a lesser extent, that of December 1993.

The tables also represent any changes to collection boundaries over the years.

Registrations and deregistrations by calendar year
Registrations

Collection	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Northern Ireland	4,074	4,226	3,607	3,674	4,034	3,652
Central England	24,888	22,257	18,239	18,983	17,735	16,161
Anglia	20,286	17,436	15,347	14,087	14,350	13,083
South East England	17,498	16,122	13,562	12,403	12,689	11,522
South England	23,440	18,813	15,544	13,934	14,295	13,056
Thames Valley	26,878	25,524	21,723	20,478	20,956	19,999
London Central	17,978	15,840	13,907	14,194	13,705	12,468
London South and Thames	10,795	9,303	8,018	7,519	11,176	10,171
East England	26,153	22,923	19,599	17,559	18,280	16,665
North West England	22,384	20,574	18,645	17,326	16,412	15,174
North England	21,696	19,180	16,362	15,374	15,331	14,081
Scotland	16,525	15,350	13,395	12,792	12,966	11,985
Wales West and Borders	29,138	25,381	21,578	20,066	20,030	18,621

Deregistrations

Collection	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Northern Ireland	3,224	3,113	3,783	3,595	3,176	3,495
Central England	17,077	16,799	22,540	22,082	20,822	17,979
Anglia	12,413	13,851	21,972	19,977	17,511	16,303
South East England	10,928	11,648	19,650	18,342	15,906	14,317
South England	12,868	14,782	21,828	20,813	19,457	16,422
Thames Valley	16,528	17,943	24,925	25,509	23,518	21,162
London Central	12,624	12,666	15,779	17,109	14,818	11,905
London South and Thames	7,002	7,531	9,247	8,989	10,546	9,604
East England	17,845	18,483	24,212	22,424	21,145	18,729
North West England	16,731	16,015	21,486	21,420	20,752	18,600
North England	15,404	16,154	20,649	18,904	17,427	16,955
Scotland	12,321	12,619	15,399	13,790	14,206	12,877
Wales West and Borders	20,193	20,773	27,797	25,691	25,236	23,346

Registrations and deregistrations by financial year
Registrations

Collection	*1989–90*	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Northern Ireland	4,053	4195	3,600	3,759	4,000	3,666
Central England	25,309	20,639	17,968	17,593	16,685	16,469
Anglia	20,014	16,166	12,695	14,104	14,230	13,470
South East England	17,920	14,067	10,682	12,439	12,405	11,339
South England	23,646	17,621	14,956	13,853	13,984	12,979
Thames Valley	28,722	24,028	21,201	20,108	20,899	20,325
London Central	17,995	15,197	12,564	13,946	13,472	12,456
London South and Thames	11,553	8,349	8,043	8,328	10,857	9,588
East England	28,761	21,492	18,677	17,919	17,402	17,028
North West England	22,889	20,752	18,091	17,003	15,876	15,064
North England	21,813	18,350	15,777	15,382	14,817	13,795
Scotland	16,670	15,020	12,799	12,891	12,682	12,103
Wales West and Borders	29,729	23,605	23,531	19,993	19,621	17,771

Deregistrations

Collection	*1989–90*	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Northern Ireland	3,442	3.128	3,934	3,303	3,417	3,280
Central England	16,848	17,007	23,887	21,698	20,607	17,593
Anglia	12,624	14,443	20,244	19,332	17,924	15,283
South East England	11,266	11,544	17,115	17,600	16,121	13,193
South England	15,729	15,185	22,852	20,675	18,065	16,687
Thames Valley	16,899	18,641	26,612	24,822	23,514	20,130
London Central	13,014	12,848	15,905	16,197	14,222	11,558
London South and Thames	7,472	7,680	9,610	6,999	11,151	8,696
East England	18,390	18,839	25,010	21,822	21,197	18,851
North West England	16,806	15,971	23,017	20,868	21,104	17,304
North England	14,407	16,470	21,289	18,708	17,030	16,665
Scotland	12,424	12,852	15,777	13,368	14,458	12,316
Wales West and Borders	20,156	21,516	29,357	25,971	25,396	21,996

Taxpayers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the number and percentage of standard rate and higher ate taxpayers in *(a)* each county, *(b)* each region and nation and *(c)* the United Kingdom in each of the last three years. [33146]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The table provides estimates for 1992–93, the latest available year for which information can be provided below the United Kingdom level.

Basic and higher rate taxpayers, 1992–93

	Taxpayer liable at basic rate but not higher rate		*Taxpayers liable at higher rate*	
	Thousands	*Percentage*[1]	*Thousands*	*Percentage*[1]
United Kingdom[2]	19,500	76.0	1,720	6.7
England	16,400	76.2	1,510	7.0
North	967	76.1	56	4.4
Cleveland	171	81.4	10	4.9
Cumbria	182	75.4	10	4.0

Basic and higher rate taxpayers, 1992–93

	Taxpayer liable at basic rate but not higher rate		*Taxpayers liable at higher rate*	
	Thousands	*Percentage*[1]	*Thousands*	*Percentage*[1]
Durham	188	75.8	8	3.2
Northumberland	97	73.6	10	7.5
Tyne and Wear	330	74.8	18	4.1
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,590	76.2	100	4.8
Humberside	281	71.9	17	4.4
North Yorkshire	246	76.7	25	7.6
South Yorkshire	376	75.0	15	3.0
West Yorkshire	683	78.7	43	5.0
North West	2,020	76.2	120	4.5
Cheshire	323	74.2	32	7.4
Greater Manchester	825	80.0	41	4.0
Lancashire	428	72.3	27	4.6
Merseyside	442	75.1	19	3.3
East Midlands	1,320	75.6	92	5.3
Derbyshire	308	75.7	19	4.7
Leicestershire	305	80.9	19	5.0
Lincolnshire	204	72.9	16	5.8
Northamptonshire	204	77.1	15	5.5
Nottinghamshire	295	71.4	23	5.6
West Midlands	1,780	78.6	119	5.3
Hereford and Worcestershire	262	79.1	24	7.1
Shropshire	126	75.8	7	4.4
Staffordshire	357	79.1	20	4.5
Warwickshire	183	77.4	21	9.1
West Midlands	848	79.1	46	4.3
East Anglia	735	77.7	56	5.9
Cambridgeshire	231	79.5	21	7.3
Norfolk	260	76.9	19	5.7
Suffolk	244	77.2	15	4.8
South east	6,380	75.6	835	9.9
Bedfordshire	189	79.2	20	8.2
Berkshire	300	73.7	46	11.2
Buckinghamshire	237	73.0	44	13.6
East Sussex	239	77.6	21	6.9
Essex	575	77.6	65	8.8
Greater London	2,410	75.6	338	10.6
Hampshire	593	77.3	55	7.2
Hertfordshire	373	75.8	58	11.7
Kent	514	75.1	51	7.5
Oxfordshire	194	73.0	27	10.2
Surrey	433	73.2	79	13.3
West Sussex	273	75.6	27	7.4
Isle of Wight	39	71.8	4	7.1
South west	1,630	75.9	129	6.0
Avon	375	76.3	28	5.8
Cornwall	136	71.2	9	4.6
Devon	343	75.6	24	5.3
Dorset	230	77.0	25	8.3
Gloucestershire	187	78.3	15	6.2
Somerset	157	75.2	9	4.2
Wiltshire	200	76.1	20	7.5
Wales	854	76.3	48	4.3
Clwyd	135	77.1	8	4.4
Dyfed	108	77.9	5	3.8
Gwent	122	76.3	8	5.0
Gwynedd	77	71.4	3	2.7
Mid Glamorgan	164	77.9	7	3.4
Powys	42	74.2	1	2.3
South Glamorgan	95	81.3	8	7.0
West Glamorgan	112	72.9	8	5.2
Scotland	1,700	74.9	126	5.5
Borders	32	68.7	2	5.0
Central	66	73.6	4	5.0
Dumfries and Galloway	46	71.7	4	6.3

Basic and higher rate taxpayers, 1992–93

	Taxpayer liable at basic rate but not higher rate		*Taxpayers liable at higher rate*	
	Thousands	*Percentage*[1]	*Thousands*	*Percentage*[1]
Fife	112	83.8	9	6.9
Grampian	193	73.5	20	7.6
Highlands	80	75.7	5	4.8
Lothian	285	76.3	21	5.5
Strathclyde	741	75.1	42	4.3
Tayside	127	72.1	14	8.1
Island authorities	12	47.6	1	5.3
Northern Ireland	420	72.7	22	3.9

[1] Of total numbers of taxpayers including those liable to only the lower rate of tax.
[2] Includes members of Her Majesty's Forces, the Merchant Navy, Civil Servants serving overseas and non-residents liable to United Kingdom tax who cannot be allocated to regions or counties.

Public Sector Borrowing Requirement

Mr. Pearson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the difference in money terms and what has been the percentage change between the PSBR forecast at the time of the 1994 autumn Budget and the 1995 summer economic forecast estimates; and what are the main reasons for the difference. [33116]

Mr. Waldegrave *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* The summer economic forecast for the PSBR in 1995–96 is £23½ billion. This is £2 billion higher than forecast at the time of the last Budget. As a proportion of GDP, the PSBR is now forecast at 3¼ per cent., ¼ percentage point higher than in the Budget.

The main reason for this increase is the assumption that lower than expected tax receipts seen in 1994–95 will be reflected in the level of receipts in 1995–96. Control total expenditure is assumed to be the same as in the plans announced in the last Budget. The Cabinet has recently confirmed that it is the Government's intention that spending will be no higher than in the plans announced in the Budget, reinforcing the Government's commitment to sound public finances.

Tower Hamlets Residents

Ms Gordon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give the economic position for members of each ethnic group in Tower Hamlets by enumeration district. [33653]

Mr. Sackville: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested has been taken from the 1991 census of population for England and Wales small area statistics and will be placed in the Library. The full ethnic breakdown of 10 categories is not available at enumeration district level.

TRANSPORT

Bull Bars

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, columns *117–18*, on bull bars, what percentage of the population this answer covers; and what factor should be used to multiply the figure in order to calculate the total figure for the United Kingdom. [33502]

Mr. Norris: The police forces which noted injury accidents involving bull bars during 1994 covered an area with a population of 29 million people. This figure represents 53 per cent. of the population of England, Scotland and Wales. These police forces covered 50 per cent. of all reported injury accidents, 57 per cent. of all fatal accidents and 53 per cent. of all serious-injury accidents. In principle, therefore, the figures for accidents involving vehicles fitted with bull bars should be approximately doubled to give an estimate for the United Kingdom; but such extrapolation should be treated with caution in view of the possibility both of under-reporting and of regional variation.

It should be noted that the number of casualties involving vehicles fitted with bull bars is not the same as the number of casualties due to bull bars, which can be determined only be analysis of the police reports of the accidents.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which police forces submitted figures on accidents involving bull bars in 1994 for his Department's study and which did not. [33832]

Mr. Norris: The two lists show those police forces which took part in the special study and those which did not.

Contributing forces

England

Avon and Somerset
Cambridgeshire
Cumbria
Cheshire
Derbyshire
Essex
Greater Manchester
Hampshire
Hertfordshire
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
Norfolk
North Yorkshire
Nottinghamshire
Northamptonshire
South Yorkshire
Staffordshire
Suffolk

Surrey
Sussex
West Midlands
West Mercia
Wiltshire
Wales
South Wales
Scotland
Central
Fife
Grampian
Northern
Strathclyde
Tayside
Non-contributing forces
England
Bedfordshire
Cleveland
Devon and Cornwall
Dorset
Durham
Gloucestershire
Humberside
Kent
Lancashire
Merseyside
Metropolitan
Northumbria
Thames valley
Warwickshire
West Yorkshire
Wales
Dyfed-Powys
Gwent
North Wales
Scotland
Lothian and Borders
Dumfries and Galloway

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33927]

Mr. Norris: For reasons of commercial confidentiality, the Department does not reveal information about the fees paid to individual consultants.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department or its agencies has spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33928]

Mr. Norris: Expenditure for the last five years is as follows:

1990–91: £760,000
1991–92: £452,000
1992–93: £1,019,000
1993–94: £1,005,000
1994–95: £2,548,000

Estimated expenditure and commissioned work is available only for two forward years.

1995–96: £3,111,000
1996–97: £2,469,000

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the total number of journeys made each year by heavy goods vehicles. [33707]

Mr. Norris: In total, there are about 560 million journeys made each year by goods vehicle over 3.5 tonnes gross weight.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 3 July, *Official Report*, column *58*, how many heavy goods vehicles were weighed by the Vehicle Inspectorate in the most recent year; and how many were found to be overweight. [33708]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for the Vehicle Inspectorate agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ron Oliver to Mr. John Denham, dated 12 July 1995:

WEIGHING HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the number of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) weighed and the number found to be overweight.

In 1994–95, 120,297 HGVs were weighed and 4,545 were prohibited.

Highway Engineering

Mr. Day: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport following the formation of the Highways Agency, what means are being employed to ensure highway engineering remains integrated within his Department's overall work on road safety. [33848]

Mr. Watts: The framework document which establishes the Highways Agency has an objective of contributing to the target of reducing road casualties by one third by the year 2000 compared with the annual average from 1981 to 1985. The agency's road users' charter sets out its commitment to contributing to the above target through a programme of implementing road safety schemes, providing better lighting and safety barriers between carriageways, encouraging safer driving at roadworks and developing winter maintenance practice. The enhancement of road safety is also a key objective of the programme of road improvements. The agency's performance is monitored against its business plan targets.

Travelcard

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has held with London Transport and British Rail on the future of the travelcard and the consideration of unit pricing of tickets in London. [33830]

Mr. Norris: The Government are committed to the continuation of the existing London travelcard and has taken the necessary steps to ensure its future. My

Department discusses a variety of issues, including developments in ticketing, with London Transport and the rail operators as required.

Refuse (Transport)

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received concerning the proposed transport of refuse by road from Westminster rather than by the use of the Thames. [33804]

Mr. Norris: I have received one representation concerning Westminster's decision to transfer its waste by road rather than by river. I understand that my ministerial colleagues in the Department of the Environment have received a further two.

A1 (Air Quality)

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what monitoring is done by his Department of air quality on the A1, Archway road, in Haringey and Islington. [33813]

Mr. Norris: My Department has not conducted any monitoring of air quality on the A1 Archway road, in the London borough of Haringey or the London borough of Islington. We do not routinely monitor air quality beside existing trunk roads.

The overall responsibility for the control of air quality rest with the Department of the Environment, which in January 1995 published the Government's strategic policies for air quality management "Air Quality: Meeting the Challenge". Under this strategy, the initial responsibility for air quality would rest with local authorities, which already have considerable responsibilities. They will liaise with bodies such as the Highways Agency, when drawing up their air quality management plans.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when it first became apparent to him that the timetable he set in March 1994 for concluding the development agreement with the successful bidder for the construction of the channel tunnel rail link was likely to slip beyond mid-1995. [33534]

Mr. Watts: The then Secretary of State announced on 31 August 1994 that he hoped to conclude the process of evaluation and negotiation by mid to late 1995.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what transport benefits he took into account when selecting the successful first stage bidders for the channel tunnel rail link construction contract. [33532]

Mr. Watts: As the Secretary of State announced on 3 July—*Official Report*, columns *61-62*, the ranking of bids in the first stage of the competition was based mainly on an evaluation of the level and timing of the Government contribution and the approach taken by the bidders to risk, together with a qualitative assessment of their financial proposals. Transport benefits were also taken into account, particularly non-financial benefits to international and domestic passengers on the rail link and existing network.

White Hart Roundabout, Northolt

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take measures to ensure the early completion of phased traffic lights at the White Hart roundabout, Northolt; and if he will make a statement. [33301]

Mr. Norris: This is a matter for the London borough of Ealing.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33419]

Mr. Norris: *(a)* In accordance with the service-wide rules, the Department's staff handbook requires staff to declare any financial interests in matters they may be called upon to deal with in the course of their official duties. In the majority of cases, such conflicts of interest are reported to, and resolved immediately by, line management. The Department does not maintain a central record of all declared shareholdings and, for this reason, it is not possible to provide the detail of information requested without a special exercise incurring disproportionate cost.

(b) There have been no cases in the last five years where staff have been formally advised to dispose of shareholdings.

Vehicle Owner Records (Disclosures)

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many disclosures from vehicle owner records at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency were made to bailiffs in the last 12 months. [33351]

Mr. Norris: The information is not recorded separately.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances he will authorise the release of records from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in connection with offences unrelated to the actual vehicle concerned. [33353]

Mr. Norris: Information may be released in circumstances where "reasonable cause" has been demonstrated.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is his definition of "good cause" in relation to the disclosure of records from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to a firm of bailiffs. [33352]

Mr. Norris: Regulations permit the release of information from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's vehicle record in circumstances where "reasonable cause" has been demonstrated. "Reasonable cause" is not defined and each case is dealt with on its merits.

Information may also be released to local authorities for any purpose connected with the investigation of an offence or criminalised parking contravention.

Most inquiries from bailiffs are made on behalf of local authorities and the courts as a result of distress warrants and for non-payments of fines, rates and so on. Inquiries are also made in cases of outstanding debts where sight of a court judgment is required before confirmation of keeper details is provided.

Vehicle Inspectorate

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much extra resources have been provided to the Vehicle Inspectorate in the current financial year; how many additional traffic examiners and vehicle examiners will be employed as a result; and if the extra money will be provided annually. [33590]

Mr. Norris: An additional £350,000 in funding has been made available to VI for additional enforcement activities. We will be looking to sustain continued high levels of enforcement in future years. The number of additional traffic examiners and vehicle examiners to be employed as a result of extra resources is an operational matter for the chief executive of the Vehicle Inspectorate. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ron Oliver to Ms Joan Walley, dated 12 July 1995:

As Chief Executive of the Vehicle Inspectorate, I have been asked by the Secretary of State to reply to your question on how many additional traffic examiners and vehicle examiners will be employed as a result of extra resources provided to VI.

The number of additional posts being created as a result of the extra funding is 11.5 traffic examiners and 2.5 vehicle examiners.

ENVIRONMENT

Hybrid Wolves

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) what advice his Department issues to local authorities about the seizure of hybrid wolves which are owned or kept as domestic pets; [33101]

(2) if he will make a statement on the application of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 to the ownership or keeping of second or subsequent generation hybrid wolves. [33109]

Mr. Clappison: Keeping a wolf or any hybrid wolf requires a licence issued by the local authority under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976. Local authorities may attach to any licence conditions covering accommodation or other issues. They are also empowered to seize any hybrid wolf for which a licence has not been issued or if a condition on a licence is breached. It is for the local authority to decide whether seizure is appropriate in a particular case.

EDS

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the contracts his Department has with the computer company EDS. [33170]

Sir Paul Beresford: None currently.

Waste Spreading

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) what representations he has received regarding problems caused by the spreading of waste paper sludge at Thieveley Pike, Cliviger, Burnley; [33620]

(2) if he will ensure that funds are made available immediately to repair the damage caused to ecologically sensitive areas by inappropriate schemes for waste spreading; [33619]

(3) what steps he has taken to ensure waste spreading on agricultural land is done in conformity with EEC directive 91/692; [33617]

(4) what steps he proposes to take to ensure waste spreading on agricultural land complies with environmental protection requirements; [33615]

(5) if he will make it his policy to ensure that the spreading of waste on water catchment areas for rivers and reservoirs and on ecologically sensitive areas is halted immediately; [33618]

(6) how many incidents have been reported of waste spreading on agricultural land being carried out using methods harmful to the environment; and if he will make a statement. [33616]

Mr. Clappison: On 1 May 1994, the Government brought into force the waste management licensing provisions of part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994—S.I. 1994 No. 1056. The new licensing system is the main means by which the Government have transposed into national legislation the requirements of the amended EC Framework Directive on waste—Council Directive 75/442/EEC as amended by 91/156/EEC and 91/692/EEC.

It is an offence under section 33(1)(a) or (b) of the 1990 Act to deposit, recover or dispose of controlled waste without a waste management licence or contrary to the conditions of a licence exemption. It is also an offence under section 33(1)(c) of the 1990 Act to carry out these activities in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health.

Article 4 of the framework directive has been transposed in paragraph 4(1)(a) of schedule 4 to the 1994 regulations. This provision makes it a relevant objective to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using processes or methods which could harm the environment and in particular without:

(a) risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals; or

(b) causing nuisance through noise or odours; or

(c) adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.

Exemptions from waste management licensing have been provided in regulation 17 of and schedule 3 to the 1994 regulations. Regulation 17(4) provides that the exemptions are valid only if the type and quantity of waste, and the method of disposal or recovery, are consistent with the need to attain the objectives set out in paragraph 4(1)(a) of schedule 4 to the 1994 regulations.

A person who purports to be carrying out an exempt activity but fails to comply with the terms and conditions of an exemption may be prosecuted under section 33(1)(a) or (b) of 1990 Act for carrying out a licensable activity without a licence; or, if appropriate, under 33(1)(c) of the 1990 Act.

Responsibility for the enforcement of waste management controls rests with waste regulation authorities and there is no requirement for incidents of the kind referred to by the hon. Member to be reported to the Department. The cost of repairing any damage arising from the inappropriate spreading of waste is a matter for the parties concerned.

In relation to the incident at Thieveley Pike, the Department has received representations from the secretary to Save The Moors From Open Cast and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Audit Commission

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what pay increase has been offered to the staff of the Audit Commission. [33349]

Sir Paul Beresford: There has been no offer of an increase in basic pay to staff of the Audit Commission for 1995–96. However, individuals will be eligible for increases in pay of between 0 and 3.5 per cent., depending on their performance against set targets.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what consideration led him to agree that the commissioners of the Audit Commission should receive a pay increase of 2.5 per cent. [33350]

Sir Paul Beresford: On 9 February, *Official Report*, column *347*, the Prime Minister announced the Government's decisions on the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Board, which was that the chairmen and members of public boards whose salaries are treated as SSRB consequentials may be paid an increase of 2.5 per cent. The Secretary of State decided to award a pay increase of 2.5 per cent. to the chairman and members of the board of the Audit Commission on this basis.

Education SSA (Devon)

Mr. Allison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the percentage change in real terms of the education standard spending assessment for Devon since 1989–90. [33493]

Sir Paul Beresford: Standard spending assessments were not introduced until 1 April 1990. Between 1990–91 and 1995–96, Devon county council's education standard spending assessment decreased in real terms by 0.4 per cent.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list by region the total amount of *(a)* useable and *(b)* set-aside capital receipts held by each local authority in England at 31 March. [33473]

Sir Paul Beresford: A list by region of the amounts of accumulated usable capital receipts and the amounts set aside as provision for credit liabilities for each English local authority at 31 March 1994 has been placed in the Library of the House.

The regional totals for these amounts are:

Amounts held as at 31 March 1994 (£ million)

Region	*Usable receipts*	*PCL set aside*
South East	1,184	2,837
South West	162	629
East Anglia	93	323
West Midlands	117	437
East Midlands	123	508
North West	142	489
Yorkshire and Humberside	79	460
Northern	65	225

The provision for credit liabilities includes amounts set aside from both capital receipts and revenue. Separate figures are not available.

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what was the average percentage change in the rateable values list between 1990 and 1995 *(a)* for each region in England, *(b)* for Cornwall and *(c)* for Cornwall and Devon. [33630]

Sir Paul Beresford: The latest information shows the following average changes in rateable value between the 1990 and 1995 rating lists:

	Per cent.
(a)	
Northern region	+26
North west	+32
Yorkshire and Humberside	+28
East Midlands	+22
West Midlands	+36
East Anglia	+14
South west	+13
South east	+2
Outer London	+6
Inner London	–41
(b)	
Cornwall +9 per cent.	—
(c)	
Cornwall and Devon +14 per cent.	—

Water Industry

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on competition regulation in the water industry. [32132]

Mr. Clappison: We are keen to encourage direct competition where it is appropriate. The Competition and Service (Utilities) Act 1992 introduced a number of measures to facilitate it in the case of water.

On 4 July the Director General of Water Services published a paper entitled "Competition in the water industry: inset appointments and their regulation", in response to an increasing number of inquiries into the introduction of competition into the water industry.

Emergency Hostels

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many 16 and 17-year-olds are staying in emergency hostels, and what plans he has to reduce the number. [33061]

Mr. Clappison: The information requested is not available in my Department.

The Children Act 1989 requires social services departments to provide accommodation for a child in need who has reached the age of 16 and whose welfare is likely to be seriously prejudiced if they do not provide him with accommodation. Social services departments also have power to provide accommodation for any child in their area if they consider that this would safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

Young people who are homeless can approach the local housing authority for assistance under part II of the Housing Act 1985. Housing authorities and social services departments are expected to co-operate in discharging their respective duties.

Housing Corporation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) what plans he has made to increase the Housing Corporation's annual development programme; [33064]

(2) what plans he has to extend the Housing Corporation's housing for rent programme. [33065]

Mr. Clappison: The budget for the Housing Corporation's approved development programme for 1995–96, including housing for rent, was announced by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Local Government, Housing and Urban Regeneration on 15 December 1994 *Official Report*, column *734*. Details were placed in the Library of the House.

The budget for the approved development programme for 1996–97 and later years is being considered as part of the Government's annual review of public expenditure.

Housing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement about the terms of reference of the intended review of the Housing Act 1985. [33066]

Mr. Clappison: We set out our housing policies in the White Paper, "Our Future Homes", Cm 2901, which was published on 27 June 1995. The White Paper indicated that the Government were consulting on a number of proposals and described the consultation arrangements.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what powers he plans to grant to local authorities to ensure decent facilities in low-rent private accommodation. [33067]

Mr. Clappison: Local authorities have a range of statutory powers to secure improvements to properties they consider to be unfit, including privately rented accommodation. We propose to strengthen their powers to deal with houses in multiple occupation to improve the safety and amenity of this type of accommodation.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what proposals he has in respect of privately rented accommodation for poor people. [33068]

Mr. Clappison: We propose to:

legislate to make it easier for landlords to let their property to build on progress made since 1988 on increasing the supply of good quality privately rented accommodation;

make it easier for people on low incomes to obtain accommodation by placing a statutory duty on local housing authorities to secure suitable advisory services, including advice on affordable private rented housing;

introduce pre-tenancy determinations to enable prospective tenants and their landlords to find out how much rent will be covered by housing benefit, before signing a tenancy agreement.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he will review the effectiveness of the business expansion scheme for privately rented accommodation. [33069]

Mr. Clappison: My Department reviewed the effectiveness of the business expansion scheme in 1991–92. We concluded that the scheme was successful as a temporary measure to pump-prime investment, adding some 80,000 rental units to the private rented sector. We also concluded that the boost to the sector was likely to be shortlived and that the scheme was relatively expensive. The concession therefore ended, as planned, in 1993.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what research he has evaluated on landlords attitudes to unemployed people and those on housing benefit as tenants; and what proposals he has. [33070]

Mr. Clappison: Recent research for my Department found that landlords' attitudes to prospective tenants varied—some landlords were cautious about taking on tenants in receipt of housing benefit, others were content to do so.

Unemployed people and those on housing benefit will find it easier to obtain accommodation if landlords are confident that the rent will be paid. We have made it easier for local authorities to offer landlords rent guarantees, helping people who cannot raise a rent deposit. We propose to introduce pre-tenancy determinations to remove the uncertainty about how much rent will be covered by housing benefit, before the tenancy agreement is signed.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Social Security and local authorities to encourage people to take housing benefit or unemployed tenants by speeding up the housing benefit application process. [33071]

Mr. Clappison: My Department and the Department of Social Security work together closely with local authorities on issues affecting the operation of the housing benefit system. In 1994, nearly 80 per cent. of all housing benefit claims were paid within the statutory 15 days. About 70 per cent. of authorities achieved or exceeded this target. The introduction of pre-tenancy determinations in January should allow local authorities to improve their response times further.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what assessment he has made of the extent to which the slump in the housing market has encouraged an increase in privately rented accommodation. [33072]

Mr. Clappison: The number of households living in privately rented property has increased by [illegible],000 since 1988. The increased availability of this type of accommodation reflects a number of factors, particularly the deregulation of lettings since 1989. The current state of the housing market is, of course, another such factor.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what progress the Secretary of State has made in encouraging *(a)* the authorised housing investment trusts and *(b)* other bodies to invest in privately rented accommodation. [33073]

Mr. Clappison: We announced in the housing White Paper our proposal to legislate to allow housing investment trusts to be formed. The removal of rent controls in 1988 for new lettings allows landlords to make a more realistic return on their investment. Since 1988, the number of privately rented households has increased from 1.7 million to 2 million.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what steps he has taken to address the concerns of the financial institutions in respect of the risks of investment in privately rented accommodation. [33047]

Mr. Clappison: We propose to allow housing investment trusts to be formed so that financial institutions will be able to invest in privately rented housing without managing the properties directly and on a scale which will enable them to diversify risks. Trusts will benefit from exemption on capital gains within the trust, and a reduced rate of corporation tax.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of grants to companies to invest in privately rented accommodation; and what is his policy in respect of such grants. [33075]

Mr. Clappison: We propose to allow private sector landlords to bid for funds to building housing at below market levels for social renting, but do not propose to offer grants for housing at market rents.

Opencast Mining

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to the oral answer of 17 May to the hon. Member for Rotherham (Mr. MacShane), *Official Report*, column 316, when his Department will publish the findings of the research that it is currently undertaking into the problems of dust, blasting and transport caused by opencast mining. [33501]

Sir Paul Beresford: These projects are concerned with all mineral workings, not simply opencast coal. The findings on dust and blasting will be published at the end of this year and in early 1996 respectively. The results of the transport research will be available in late summer 1996.

Director General of Water Services

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the current salary of the Director General of Water Services; and what has been the salary for this post since 1990. [33552]

Mr. Clappison: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain) by my right hon. Friend the former Minister for the Environment and Countryside on 3 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *17*.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what are the criteria used to determine the salary of the Director General of Water Services. [33553]

Mr. Clappison: Mr. Byatt's salary is based on that of a grade 2 civil servant, and has been increased in line with increases awarded to senior civil servants in the light of the Government's decisions on the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33891]

Sir Paul Beresford: This information is available centrally only for some of the consultancy contracts. The available information for the period April 1990 to April 1995 is as follows:

Company name	*Number of contracts awarded*
Touche Ross	3
Infologistics	3
BIS Applied Systems	5
Logica	9
Comshare	2
Computer People	8
Peter Peregrinus Ltd.	1
ISMa Consultants	1
Coopers and Lybrand	11
PA Consulting	1
Mindworks	1
World Systems	6
Hanlon Computer Services	2
W. S. Atkins	7
Yale Data Management	11
Softlab	1
Sapphire Software Services	2
Kermon Management Consultants	1
Abraxas Computer Systems	4
Mouncey and Partners	7
FI Group plc	3
Ernst and Young	9
Trident Project Services	1
Hoskyns Group plc	1
Elan Computing	2
CSL	2
Ron Streeter Methods Ltd.	1
Amtec Consulting	3
CTEC	1
Hunterskil	3
Logical Communication Systems	1
Park Place Training	1
Frost Berkeley Associates	6
Chajnsielem Heritage Systems	1
Thomas Consultancy	1

Company name	Number of contracts awarded
Isles Technology Resources	4
Almondhall Computer Staff	6
AMP Computer Recruitment	1
CSS Trident	2
Nobleprospect Ltd.	1
Myriad Computer Services	5
Intertech Computer Consultants	1
Systeme Evolutif	2
Database Solutions	1
Modulo 4	1
Consultancy Corporation	1
Sue Sheppard Staff Bureau	1
KPG Computer Support Services	1
Thorogood Associates	1
Admiral Management Services	5
VNG Nationwide	1
Methods Application	2
Lorien Technical Services	2
Brooklands Information Services	1
Prolog Systems	1
Gmap Ltd.	1
Task Force	2
Mind Consultancy	1
Arrow Corps	1
David Warrilow Associates	3
International Training Services	1
Easams Ltd.	2
Express Computer Consultants	1
Basis Ltd.	2
Axsis Consultants	1
ABC Ltd.	1
PWA Professional Personnel	1
Total number of contracts	180

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last five years have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33879]

Sir Paul Beresford: The information requested is not held centrally by my Department and is obtainable only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33860]

Sir Paul Beresford: Information is available centrally only for some of the expenditure on computer consultancies. The available total cost for each of the last five years is as follows:

1990–91: £1,427,230

1991–92: £4,029,342

1992–93: £2,742,459

1993–94: £1,794,048

1994–95: £316,045

In respect of the next five years, it is not possible centrally to disaggregate bids for computer consultancy from bids for other forms of consultancy assistance. This information is obtainable only at disproportionate cost.

Public Bodies

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the total value of quangos undertaking local government responsibilities in London, their total income and income per organisation and the names of all their members. [33940]

Sir Paul Beresford: My right hon. Friend has responsibility for the following non-departmental public bodies which exercise in London functions, some of which are the same as those exercisable by local authorities.

LONDON RESIDUARY BODY

Membership

Sir Godfrey Taylor, DL (Chairman)

Mr. Wallace Mackenzie, OBE

Mr. Michael Roberts, FCA

Mr. Jack Wolkind, CBE

At 31 March 1995—latest available annual accounts—the value of net assets was £22.5 million and total revenue income in 1994–95 was £0.4 million.

LONDON PENSIONS FUND AUTHORITY

Membership

Mr. Cholmeley Messer (Chairman)

Mr. Michael Roberts, FCA (Deputy Chairman)

Sir Nigel Althaus

Councillor Dennis Barkway

Councillor Stephen Bullock

Miss Caroline Burton

Councillor Judith Jorsling

Councillor Serge Lourie

At 31 March 1994—Latest available annual accounts—the value of the authority's superannuation fund was £2 billion and the value of the LPFA's other net assets was some £33 million. The total income in 1993–94 on the authority's management revenue account, net of recoverable payments, was around £30 million.

LONDON DOCKLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Membership

Mr. Michael Pickard (Chairman)

Lord Cocks of Hartcliffe (Deputy Chairman)

Viscountess Cobham

Sir Christopher Foster

Sir Brian Hill

Mr. William Jack

Councillor Rajan Jalal

Councillor Conor McAuley

Councillor John McTernan

Mr. Peter Mead

Mr. Eric Sorensen

Mr. Neil Spence

Mr. Ronald Spinney

At 31 March 1994—latest available annual accounts—the value of the corporation's net assets was £623 million and the total income on the consolidated income and expenditure account was £94 million.

Radioactive Waste Management

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what responses he has received to his White Paper reviewing radioactive waste management policy, Cm. 2919. [33641]

Mr. Clappison: None; the White Paper already takes account of responses received to the preliminary conclusions of the review, which were published in a consultation document last August.

Protection of Species and Habitats

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what action the United Kingdom Government propose to take to protect species and habitats within its national jurisdiction but beyond territorial limits; and what is the timetable for such action. [33849]

Mr. Clappison: The UK Government will contribute fully to the international action and timetables agreed in the ministerial declaration of the fourth North sea conference in respect of the protection of species and habitats. The 1995 joint meeting of the Oslo and Paris Commissions held on 26 to 30 June agreed to consider questions on the protection of species and habitats raised by the declaration at working group level in October.

County Hall

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what planning matters in relation to county hall, London SE1, have been considered by his Department. [33829]

Sir Paul Beresford: In recent years, the Secretary of State for the Environment has determined a number of appeals on county hall planning and listed building consent applications.

The Secretary of State dismissed appeals on 20 October 1987 for change of use of the county hall complex to hotel and residential use, but allowed a change to offices.

On 5 September 1991, the Secretary of State allowed a second set of appeals and consents to demolish all the buildings within the complex and for their replacement by new office buildings, apart from the listed riverside building. Consent was given for the riverside building to be refurbished and altered to provide hotel and conference facilities and some 300 residential flats.

Packaging Waste

Mr. William O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) if he will give up-to-date details on the response he has received to each of the six packaging schemes listed in his consultation paper on packaging and packaging waste; [33692]

(2) how many *(a)* written and *(b)* oral representations his Department has received to the consultation paper on the shared producers responsibility scheme (i) from industry and (ii) from trade associations and companies; [33689]

(3) how many *(a)* written and *(b)* oral representations his Department has received on the suggested V-WRAG scheme on shared producers responsibility for packaging waste scheme (i) in favour of the V-WRAG scheme and (ii) against the scheme; [33690]

(4) if he will consider including the V-WRAG suggested scheme as an addition in his consultation paper, "Shared Producers Responsibility for Packaging Waste Scheme"; and if he will make a statement. [33691]

Mr. Clappison *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* The Department has received approximately 200 letters from businesses and trade associations, largely in the food and drink and packaging manufacturing sectors, in support of a document entitled "Shared Producer Responsibility for Packaging Waste" which was submitted to Government by the VALPAK—Working Representative Advisory Group (V—WRAG) on 13 June. There have also been a number of oral expressions of support.

The previous Minister for the Environment and Countryside wrote to the chairman of V-WRAG explaining that, in their present form, these proposals fall well short of meeting the criteria for an effective legal obligation to support the recovery and recycling of packaging waste. These criteria were published by the Government on 2 February, *Official Report*, column *763-64*. I have placed copies of the correspondence in the library.

The Government published their consultation paper on "Producer Responsibility for Packaging Waste" on 25 May, copies of which are in the library. Consultation closes on 18 August. The paper sets out six options for legislation on the recovery and recycling of packaging waste, all of which have been worked up by representatives of businesses in the packaging industry or who manufacture or supply packaged goods. At this stage, very few responses on the relative merits of the various options have been received.

Leasehold Exchange Scheme

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish an analysis of the leasehold exchange scheme, indicating the cash sum received by a local authority and the net effect on a local authority's *(a)* capital receipts and *(b)* total borrowing and the new mortgage required by the leaseholder utilising the leasehold exchange scheme if the original leasehold property were (i) valued at £30,000 and sold with full discount in 1986 and (ii) valued at £20,000 and sold with full discount in 1982, and the new leasehold property is currently (1) a flat valued at £40,000 and (2) a house valued at £50,000, on the same assumptions as (i) if the original property now has a nil market value. [30789]

Mr. Clappison *[holding answer 26 June 1995]:* An illustrative analysis based on the examples would be as follows:

	Example (i)	
	£	£
Surrendered flat:		
Value of flat when purchased in 1986:	30,000	
Maximum discount (60 per cent.):	18,000	
Right to buy purchase price:	12,000	
Exchange property:	*example (1)*	*example (2)*
	Flat valued at 40,000	House valued at 50,000
Discount[1] (flat 40 per cent., house 30 per cent.):	16,000	15,000
Total consideration:	24,000	35,000

Example (i)

	£	£
Credit for surrendered flat:	12,000	12,000
Cash sum received by local authority:	12,000	23,000
Effect on local authority's capital receipts:		
Notional receipt: (in each case, the RTB price paid)	12,000	12,000
Set-aside, 75 per cent. of (in this case, total consideration minus credit for surrendered flat):	(24,000–12,000)	(35,000–23,000)
	9,000	17,250
Effect on local authority's total borrowing:	This would depend on the authority's policy with regard to the use of amounts set aside	
Effect on new mortgage required by leaseholder:	The additional amount required (whether by a new loan or otherwise) in each case would be:	
	12,000	23,000

[1] The percentage defined by paragraph A3.3A(b)(ii) of the General Consent for the Disposal of Part II Dwelling-Houses 1994.

Example (ii)

	£	£
Surrendered flat:		
Value of flat when purchased in 1982:	20,000	
Maximum discount (60 per cent.):	12,000	
Right to buy purchase price:	8,000	
Exchange property:	*Example (1)*	*Example (2)*
	Flat valued at 40,000	House valued at 50,000
Discount[1] (flat 40 per cent. house 30 per cent:	16,000	15,000
Total consideration:	24,000	35,000
Credit for surrendered flat:	8,000	8,000
Cash sum received by local authority:	16,000	27,000
Effect on local authority's capital receipts:		
Notional receipt: (in each case, the RTB price paid)	8,000	8,000
Set-aside, 75 per cent. of (in this case, total consideration minus credit for surrendered flat):	(24,000–16,000)	(35,000–27,000)
	12,000	20,250
Effect on local authority's total borrowing:	This would depend on the authority's policy with regard to the use of amount set aside	

Example (ii)

	£	£
Effect on new mortgage required by leaseholder:	The additional amount required (whether by a new loan or otherwise) in each case would be:	
	16,000	27,000

As in your Question, no account is taken of administrative costs, which would also be deductible from the capital receipt before set-aside is calculated.

[1] The percentage defined by paragraph A3.3A(b)(ii) of the General Consent for the Disposal of Part II Dwelling-Houses 1994.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Attorney-General which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33871]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Attorney-General how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33851]

The Attorney-General: The expenditure over the past five years for the Departments for which I am responsible is given in the following table:

Expenditure in £000

Year	*Treasury Solicitor's Department*	*Crown Prosecution Service*	*Serious Fraud Office*	*Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers*
1990–91	not known	not known	114.5	0
1991–92	22	428	87.8	0
1992–93	62	487	99.9	0
1993–94	14.2	449	153.1	0
1994–95	6.4	369	[1]213.7	0

[1] Unaudited.

Approximate expected expenditure for the next five years, at current prices, is as follows:

Expenditure in £000

Year	*Treasury Solicitor's Department*	*Crown Prosecution Service*	*Serious Fraud Office*	*Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers*
1995–96	40	204	193.5	0
1996–97[1]	30	[2]200	[2] 200	0

[1] and each subsequent year
[2] not more than

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Attorney-General which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33898]

The Attorney-General: The Departments for which I am responsible have entered into computer consultancy contracts with the following companies over the last five years—1990–91 to 1994–95. The figures in brackets give the number of contracts awarded to each company.

Treasury Solicitor's Department
Axsis Consultants Ltd. (2)
CCTA (6)
Exact Profiles Ltd (1)
Telecom Capita (1)
Triad Special Systems Ltd. (2)
Brian D Yates (1)
Crown Prosecution Service
Amtec Consulting (1)
The Art of Management Ltd. (1)
Axsis Consultants Ltd. (3)
Bull Information Systems Ltd. (1)
Comshare Ltd. (1)
Harvard Associates Ltd. (2)
Hoskyns Group plc (1)
Hunterskil Ltd. (2)
Infact Ltd. (4)
Integrated Project Support (2)
ISIS Computer Services (1)
Mouncey and Partners (1)
Olivetti UK Ltd. (1)
Oracle Corporation UK Ltd. (1)
Quadratron Systems UK Ltd. (1)
Relational Designers Ltd. (1)
SCOLL (1)
Sema Group Systems Ltd. (1)
Sequelogic Ltd. (4)
Simdell Office Systems Ltd. (1)
Verity (1)
VNG Nationwide Ltd. (1)
Yale Consulting (2)
Serious Fraud Office
(ACT) Network SI Group Ltd. (2)
Admiral Management Services Ltd. (1)
Amtec Consulting (2)
Digitus Ltd. (1)
Ernst and Young (1)
Hedra Ltd (2)
Hoskyns Group plc (2)
Insight Consulting (2)
Logica UK Ltd .(1)
Oracle Corporation UK Ltd. (1)
Rand Information Systems Ltd. (1)
Secure Information Systems Ltd. (1)
SHL Systemhouse Inc (2)
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers
None.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33570]

Mr. Hanley: There are three categories of consultants as defined by the Cabinet Office Efficiency Scrutiny. These are:

> "Investigating problems; providing analysis or advice; and assisting with the development of new systems, new structures or new capabilities within the organisation."

For the year 1994–95, the diplomatic wing had 13 contracts with management consultants at a total cost of £76,887; 523 contracts for estate and building works consultants at a cost of £8,625,000 and 187 contracts for information technology consultants at a cost of £4,984,000.

The aid wing had 15 contracts with management consultants at a total cost of £847,545 and 1,060 contracts with consultants involved in the aid programme overseas at a total cost of £199,221,375.

Similar information for the periods 1990–91, 1991–92, 1992–93 and 1993–94 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Departments by *(a)* number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33439]

Mr. Hanley: The information required could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33459]

Mr. Hanley: The cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, including the ODA, since 1980 is £326,890.94.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33881]

Mr. Hanley: The following management consultants employed by the diplomatic wing have been paid more than £1,000 per day in the last year:

Psychometric Research Development
Kinsley Lord

Other consultancies within the diplomatic wing and ODA are not necessarily charged on a daily basis and such figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and (i) Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33916]

Mr. Hanley: The table sets out the number of contracts and the total costs paid to the firms mentioned.

The figures cover both the diplomatic wing and the ODA and include contracts let under the aid programme.

	1993–94	*1994–95*
1. DIPLOMATIC WING		
(a) Coopers and Lybrand		
Total number of contracts	3	3
Total costs	£133,000	£385,000
(c) Ernst and Young		
Total number of contracts	2	1
Total costs	£23,000	£4,000
(g) Stoy Hayward		
Total number of contracts	2	1
Total costs	£164,000	£59,000
(i) Pannell Kerr Forster		
Total number of contracts	—	2
Total costs	—	£26,000
2. AID WING		
(i) UK Running Costs		
(b) Peat Marwick (KPMG)		
Total number of contracts	—	2
Total costs	—	£234,500
(ii) Aid programme		
(a) Coopers and Lybrand		
Total number of contracts	9	13
Total costs	£1,406,342	£1,462,955
(b) Peat Marwick (KPMG)		
Total number of contracts	9	11
Total costs	£475,977	£1,325,504
(c) Ernst and Young		
Total number of contracts	6	—
Total costs	£2,382,040	—
(d) Arthur Andersen		
Total number of contracts	1	1
Total costs	£46,000	£1,330,000
(e) Price Waterhouse		
Total number of contracts	12	3
Total costs	£1,280,657	£5,307,209
(i) Pannell Kerr Forster		
Total number of contracts	1	—
Total costs	£197,250	—

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33416]

Mr. Hanley: None.

Sex Tourism

Mrs. Golding: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the last date that the subject of British sex tourists was raised with the Government of Cambodia; and what were the results of that discussion. [33706]

Mr. Hanley: We have not raised the subject of sex tourism with the Cambodian Government. However, the British embassy in Phnom Penh monitors this question closely and maintains contacts with NGOs in Cambodia, which are involved in tackling child prostitution.

Land Mines

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with fellow members of the European Union as to a joint policy banning the selling of landmines; and if he will make a statement. [33488]

Mr. David Davis: On 12 May 1995, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted a European Union joint action on anti-personnel landmines. This comprises a European Union-wide moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines, identical in scope to our own national moratorium; joint efforts to strengthen the 1981 United Nations weaponry convention at a review conference due to take place in September; and support for demining.

Kurdish People

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings and discussions have been held with representatives of the Kurdish people of *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Iran and *(c)* Turkey; and if he will make a statement on Her Majesty's Government's policy in respect of Kurdish demands. [33800]

Mr. David Davis: We are in frequent contact with representatives of the Iraqi Kurdish people. We have no contact with representatives of the Iranian Kurdish people. In Turkey, we maintain a broad range of contacts with people of Kurdish origin in public life, including those arguing for Kurdish autonomy.

We frequently make clear to the Turkish Government our view that the conflict in the south-east of Turkey must be settled within the rule of law and with due respect for human rights; we encourage Turkey to seek a political rather than a military solution.

The Iraqi Kurds are aware of the Government's support for the territorial integrity of Iraq.

We support Iraqi Kurdish demands that Iraq cease repression of its people as required by UN Security Council resolution 688.

Myanmar

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions representatives of Her Majesty's Government have held with representatives of political parties in Myanmar; and if he will make a statement. [33801]

Mr. Hanley: The British embassy in Rangoon has consistently maintained contact with representatives of the Burmese pro-democracy groups. The British chargé d'affaires, in company with other diplomats, took part in a meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the National League for Democracy on 11 July.

We warmly welcome the SLORC's decision to lift the restrictions from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We hope that, as she said in her statement on 11 July, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the State Law and Order Restoration Council will be able to work together in the spirit of reconciliation and co-operation to achieve a prosperous and democratic Burma.

Ireland

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what indications he has received from the Irish Government as to when the Irish Parliament will ratify the appropriate convention to receive sentenced prisoners in the Irish Republic; and if he will make a statement. [33945]

Mr. Rifkind: I understand that a Bill to ratify the Council of Europe convention on the transfer of sentenced persons completed its passage through the Irish Parliament on 7 July and should shortly come into effect.

China

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations have been made to the Government of China concerning human rights and the use of child labour. [33831]

Mr. Hanley: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr. Goodlad) gave on 23 February 1995, *Official Report*, column 279.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Hurd), discussed human rights in China with Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in New York on 18 April.

Ministerial Responsibilities

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which of his ministerial colleagues is responsible for consular matters relating to the Indian sub-continent; which ministerial colleague will be responsible for the migration and visa correspondence unit; and if he will make a statement. [33973]

Mr. Hanley: I have the honour to be the Minister responsible for consular matters in the Indian sub-continent and for the migration and visa correspondence unit.

Nigeria

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what help his Department intends to give to Nigeria in drawing up a new electoral register. [33037]

Mr. Hanley: We have received no request from the Nigerian authorities for such assistance.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he received a copy of the report of the national constitutional conference in Nigeria and if he will make a statement explaining his policy in regard to steps which might be taken to encourage its implementation. [33038]

Mr. Hanley: We have not yet received a copy of the report, despite repeated requests. As my right hon. Friend the the Foreign Secretary made clear in a statement on 28 June, it is in Nigeria's own interests that there should be an accelerated and credible timetable for a transition to civilian democratic rule.

Kenya

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what ways his policy on Kenya has changed and developed over the past year. [33797]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* There has been no change in our approach. Kenya remains an important partner for Britain and we have continued to develop closer relations. As part of that process, we have given encouragement and support to the Government of Kenya to promote economic reform, good government and the development of a pluralist democracy.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Terrorist Prisoners

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received concerning the contribution to the Irish peace process that could be made by a phased release from Her Majesty's prisons of those convicted of terrorist-related crimes; and if he will make a statement. [33941]

Mr. Howard: I have received a small number of representations from Members of the House, members of the public and others arguing for and against the early release of terrorist prisoners. The Government's position is clear. There will be no amnesty for prisoners convicted of terrorist offences. They should expect to serve their sentences in accordance with the law.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he expects to release prisoners convicted of terrorist-related crimes from her Majesty's prisons; when he expects such prisoners to be told of their release dates; and if he will make a statement; [33942]

(2) how many republican prisoners in Her Majesty's prisons, who have served sentences of more than 20 years, have not yet been informed of their release date; and when he intends to tell these prisoners when they can expect to be released. [33943]

Miss Widdecombe: The release of prisoners, irrespective of their offence, is considered in accordance with the Criminal Justice Act 1991 and its associated procedures. I have no knowledge of the release date of any prisoner until, in each individual case, the proper procedures have been completed.

Two prisoners convicted of terrorist offences have served sentences of more than 20 years. A further three such prisoners will have been detained for more than 20 years by the end of July 1995. All five are discretionary life sentence prisoners and they have each been told that the period to be served for retribution and deterrence is 20 years. Their release will be a matter for a discretionary lifer panel of the Parole Board.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its

agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33895]

Mr. Howard: My Department has let 595 contracts for computer consultancy to 164 companies, over the five years from 1990–91 to 1994–95, as follows:

Firms which have won computer consultancy contracts	*Number of contracts*
ACT Business Systems	1
Admiral	14
AEA Technology	1
Aims Systems	1
AMTEC Consulting	1
APD-s.-Com	2
AT & T Professional Services	2
AXSIS Consultants	11
Bell Software	2
BIS	1
Bransom	1
Brian Whitworth	1
Bristol Transputer Centre	1
Bull Information Systems	4
Bureau Veritas Quality	2
California Institute of Technology	1
Capita Management	1
CCTA	16
Charles Douglas Organisation	5
Civil Service College	1
CMG Information Services	4
Communications Planning	1
Computer Capacity Management Services	2
Computer People North	5
Concorde Services	1
Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte	10
Compass Ltd.	1
Computer Application Services	1
Cornwell Affiliates	1
Cray Systems	8
CSC	7
CSS Trident	18
Data Sciences	2
DataEase International	1
Daton Systems	2
Daymount Computing	2
Dart Resourcing Group	1
DBI Associates	14
DEC	4
Devron	1
Doric Computer Systems	1
Easams	1
Ealing Electro Optics	2
Edinburgh Parallel Comp.	4
EDS Defence	2
Electronic Facilities Des.	1
ENE	1
ERA Technology	5
Ernst and Young	4
ESRI(UK)	1
Eurolink Group PLC	1
Eurosource	1
Ewbank Preece	1
Express Computer Consultants	3
Forvus	1
Gartner Group UK	1
Genesis Computer Res.	1
Glossa	2
Grafton	8
Hans Grefte	2
R Grundy Associates	1
GST	1
Harvey Consultants	2
HDX	1
Hedra	4
Hoskyns Group	50
Human Applications	1
IBIS	1
ICL	5
IHSM Consultants	1
Image Science	1
Intac	1
Interskil Consulting	1
Information Partnership	1
Insight Consulting	3
ITA	1
Kermon	26
Kingston & Associates	1
LA International	1
LBMS	7
Leatherhead Food Research	1
Liverpool Polytechnic Services	1
Logica	16
Logical Systems International	1
Lorien Group	3
Lucas Management Systems	1
Mackenzie Tribbeck	1
Mancos Computers	1
Marketing Generics	1
Metier	2
Method Application	3
MFT	3
Microprism (UK)	1
MIS	1
MMT Computing	1
Model Systems	1
Modus International	2
MSG Business Systems	1
Myriad Computer Services	3
National Computing Centre	1
National Transputer Supp.	2
Nostradamus Computing	1
Nucleus Networking Systems	3
Office	5
Oracle Corporation	14
Origin IQ	1
PA Consulting	31
Pace Consultancy	1
Paradis Consultants	6
Parity PLC	2
P-E International	4
Peter Lomax	1
Picdar	1
Pink Elephant	1
Portsmouth Building Society	1
Premier Data Services	2
Price Waterhouse	6
QA Research	1
Quanta Learning Systems	2
Radius	3
Recognition Research	4
Rede Group	1
Resources International	1
Robin Verney Associates	3
RW Comms	1
SAA Consultants	1
Scoll	1
S-Com	1
SD Scicon	1
Search International	2
Sema Group	12
Siemens Nixdorf	15
Sitpro	1
Skytronics	1
Smith Systems Engineering	6
Software AG	6
Software Quality Assurance	3
Software Sciences	1

Firms which have won computer consultancy contracts	*Number of contracts*
Span Contracts	3
SSADM College	3
St. George's Hospital	1
Strand information	1
Strategy & Vision Research	2
System Concepts	2
TABS	1
Taymar Consultants	1
Teesside Polytechnic	1
Theodore Goddard	5
Thorcom	1
TIS	1
Touche Ross	5
Touchstone Consultancy	2
Unisys	1
University of Aberdeen	6
University of Dundee	1
Unicorn Business Solutions	2
VNG Nationwide	14
White Waghorn	3
Winstead	1
Winway Systems	8
World Quality Systems	8
WS Atkins	2
Yale Data	2
Zentech	1

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33882]

Mr. Howard: A number of consultancy contracts would include some rates at more than £1,000 per day, but typically the average rates charged would be less than £1,000. An exhaustive list of all commissions where the daily rate might exceed £1,000 per day could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33852]

Mr. Howard: My Department has spent in each of the last five years the following amounts:

1990–91: £4,820,000
1991–92: £6,000,000
1992–93: £4,210,000
1993–94: £3,500,000
1994–95: £2,730,000

Expenditure in future years will depend on need and affordability within overall financial provision, but is likely to be of the order of £4 million to £5 million per year.

Teenage Prisoners

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the current average time a teenager is held in prison awaiting trial. [33809]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 12 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the current average time a teenage is held in prison awaiting trial.

The latest available provisional information is for time spent in custody before conviction and time spent in custody after conviction before sentence in 1994. It is given in the attached table.

Estimated average time spent in custody for untried and convicted unsentenced prisoners, aged 15–19, in Prison Service establishments in 1994[1]

Type of custody	*Receptions in 1994*	*Estimated average number of days in custody*[4]
Untried[2]	13,056	44
Convicted unsentenced[3]	8,052	33

[1] Provisional figures.
[2] Time spent in custody before conviction.
[3] Time spent in custody after conviction before sentence.
[4] Estimated from the number of receptions and population in 1994, as measured by population on 30 June.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the cost to public funds of keeping a 15 or 16-year-old in prison for each day they await trial. [33814]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 12 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the daily cost of keeping a 15 or 16 year old in prison while awaiting trial.

In 1993–94 the average daily cost of holding a prisoner in a young offender remand establishment was £55.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to phase out the use of prison custody for teenagers. [33808]

Miss Widdecombe: We are committed to ending the remanding of 15 and 16-year-olds boys to Prison Service establishments as soon as there are sufficient secure local authority places to accommodate them. A building programme of 170 new secure places in under way. We expect the majority of these places to be finished in 1996. Prison Service accommodation is not used for other remanded juveniles. We have no plans to phase out the use of Prison Service accommodation for sentenced juveniles.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths of 15 and 16-year-olds awaiting trial in prison have occurred in the last 10 years, in which prisons and on what dates. [33810]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 12 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about suicides among fifteen and sixteen year olds in prison during the last ten years.

Between June 1985 and June 1995 there was one self-inflicted death of a fifteen or sixteen year old at a Prison Service establishment who was awaiting trial. This occurred on 13 July 1990 at Swansea prison.

Mrs Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which adult prisons 15 and 16-year-olds are currently held; and how many are held in each prison. [33812]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 12 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question asking in which adult prisons 15 to 16 year olds are currently held; and how many are held in each prison.

The information requested is given in the attached table.

Population of 15 and 16 year olds in adult Prison Service establishments on 31 May 1995[1]

Prison Service establishment	*Number*
Askham Grange	2
Cardiff	7
Doncaster	21
Exeter	1
Holloway	5
Hull	13
Low Newton	2
Wormwood Scrubs	1
Total	52

[1] Provisional figures.

Charitable Funds

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rules or guidance his Department has issued about how trusts or health authorities can invest moneys held in trust. [33936]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The Charity Commission, which is responsible for providing advice to health service bodies on the administration of their charitable funds, has produced a guide for them which includes guidance on their duties towards the selection of investments for, and management of, these funds. The guide has been sent to all regional, district and special health authorities, Special trustees, NHS trusts and trustees appointed for NHS trusts in England and Wales which hold charitable funds.

Immigration (Removal Procedures)

Mr. John Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home department what further action has taken place since the issue of the report of the joint Home Office and police review of removal procedures in immigration cases involving the police; and if he will make a statement. [34427]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Following detailed discussions between officials in the immigration department and senior police officers, a Home Office circular has been issued. This follows up the recommendations of the review, which were accepted by my right hon. and learned Friend. A copy of the circular is being placed in the Library.

Sex Tourism

Mr. Alison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department is he will make a statement about his plans for dealing with the problem of sex tourism [34513]

Mr Howard: The Government share the abhorrence felt by the vast majority of people about the sexual exploitation abroad of young children. The introduction, by Lord Hylton of his Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill has done much to highlight the issue and we have listened very carefully to all that has been said both inside Parliament and more generally We are anxious that effective action should be taken to deal with this problem. That must involve action by the foreign governments concerned, but that alone is not enough. We must also do all that we can.

Despite its admirable aim, Lord Hylton's Bill is, in the Government's view, seriously flawed and does not provide a workable or effective solution to the problems posed by sex tourism. The Government cannot therefore support it.

We are, however, urgently examining the scope of the law in each of the United Kingdom jurisdictions to see what steps could be taken to deal with those who in this country conspire or incite others to commit offences abroad. This would enable us to deal with those who organise sex tours or encourage others to travel abroad for the purpose of sexually exploiting children.

Any legislation which might be brought forward to achieve this aim would need careful thought to ensure that it would be effective. We would hope to have proposals for legislation ready as soon as the details can be satisfactorily resolved.

Car Crime

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list by police force the budgets allocated for preventing car crime for each of the last five years. [33578]

Mr. Maclean: This information is not held centrally. The allocation of available resources within each force area is a matter for the chief officer of police.

Prisoners (HIV)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the breakdown of his Department's budget for use in the treatment of prison inmates suffering from the HIV virus and the AIDS infection; and if he will make a statement. [33485]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison

Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 12 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the budget treatment of inmates suffering from the HIV virus and AIDS infection.

The Prison Service budget for health care is not broken down into treatment costs for individuals or for particular diseases. The policy on treatment of prison inmates generally is that the Prison Service pays for or provides treatment which is carried out within the prison setting and the National Health Service provides for the treatment of inmates who go to outside hospitals to receive specialist care or in-patient treatment.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is his Department's response to each of the 11 recommendations of the Animal Procedures Committee report to the Home Secretary on regulatory toxicity of March 1994; what has been the reason for the delay in responding; what action he now proposes to take which will reduce unnecessary animal experiments; and how many fewer such experiments he estimates will now occur. [33525]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The report was published in July 1994 as a basis for public consultation. We are now preparing, in discussion with colleagues, a response to the committee, taking into account the comments we have received. This should be available shortly and I will send the hon. Member a copy.

National Lottery

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many poverty-related projects have been submitted for consideration for proceeds arising from the national lottery; how many have been approved; and what was the total value of funds approved. [33658]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The National Lottery Charities Board began accepting applications for its first round of grants on 15 May 1995. It is accepting applications up to 1 August, and it is too early to specify the numbers and types of applications received. The board hopes to announce details of its first grants in October. Decisions on individual applications are a matter for the board.

Asylum Seekers (Kenya)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from Kenya have sought refugee status in each of the past five years and in each month of this year. [33039]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Information on asylum applications from Kenyan nationals for the years 1990 to 1994 is published in table 2.1 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 1994", issue 15/95. A copy of this publication is available in the Library.

Information on applications during January to May 1995 is given in the table.

Applications[1] received for asylum in the United Kingdom from Kenyan nationals, excluding dependents, January to May 1995

1995	*Number of principal applicants*
January	60
February	80
March	40
April	70
May	110
Total	360

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials, to public funds for each year since 1992. [32264]

Mr. Howard: The information below reflects that which is available centrally. Precise details of officials who travelled with Ministers are not available, but generally, Ministers will have been accompanied by a private secretary and an official.

1–9 January 1992: Right hon. Kenneth Baker; India and Pakistan on immigration matters

21–22 January 1992: Right hon. Dame Angela Rumbold; Luxembourg

22–23 January 1992: Right hon. Dame Angela Rumbold; The Netherlands

3–4 March 1992: Right hon. Kenneth Baker; Lisbon for meeting with Minister of the Interior

10–11 June 1992: Right hon. Kenneth Clarke; Lisbon for TREVI Council

8–11 June 1992: Mr. Jack; European Ministers of Justice meeting in Cyprus

6–15 September 1992: Right hon. Kenneth Clarke; South America

17–18 September 1992: Right hon. Kenneth Clarke; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Brussels

14–29 September 1992: Mr. Wardle; India on immigration matters

16–18 October 1992: Right hon. Sir Peter Lloyd; USA

23–24 November 1992: Right hon. Kenneth Clarke; Committee on Civil Liberties, Brussels

14–16 February 1993: Right hon. Kenneth Clarke; Conference in Budapest

5–6 May 1993: Right hon. Kenneth Clarke; Report on International Organised Crime, Denmark

27–28 May 1993: Right hon. Sir Peter Lloyd; Italy

1–3 June 1993: Mr. Wardle; Belgium and Holland

28–29 September 1993: Right hon. David Maclean; European Ministers of Justice meeting in Brussels

21–22 October 1993: Right hon. David Maclean; 3rd European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Men and Women in Rome

18–19 November 1993: Mr. Wardle; Greece

28–30 November 1993: Mr. Wardle; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Brussels

1–8 January 1994: Home Secretary; visit to USA

11 March 1994: Home Secretary; meeting with French Minister of Justice, Paris

22 March 1994: Home Secretary; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Brussels

5–7 May 1994: Mr. Wardle; Thessalonika

13–15 June 1994: Right hon. David Maclean; 19th Conference of European Ministers of Justice, Malta

19–20 June 1994: Mr. Wardle; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Luxembourg

20 August–3 September 1994: Home Secretary; visit to South America

7 September 1994: Right hon. Michael Forsyth; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Berlin

7–8 September 1994: Home Secretary; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Berlin

20–23 November 1994: Right hon. David Maclean; UN Conference on Organised Crime in Naples

30 November 1994: Home Secretary; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Brussels

1 December 1994: Mr. Baker; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Brussels

8 December 1994: The Right hon. The Baroness Blatch; Internal Market Council, Brussels

18–20 December 1994: Right hon.David Maclean; visit to Bosnia

21 December 1994: Mr. Baker; Coquelles (immigration trip)

4–5 January 1995: The Right hon. The Baroness Blatch; Stockholm, meeting Swedish Minister of Justice

11–12 January 1995: The Right hon. The Baroness Blatch; Copenhagen/The Hague for meetings with the Danish Minister of Justice and the Dutch Minister for European Affairs

13 January 1995: Home Secretary; meeting French Ministers of the Interior, Paris

16–17 January 1995: Right hon. Michael Forsyth; Data Protection meeting in Vienna and Rome

19–20 January 1995: The Right hon. The Baroness Blatch; Helsinki/Bonn to attend meetings with the Finnish and German Ministers of Justice

25–26 January 1995: Right hon. Michael Forsyth; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Paris

30 January 1995: The Right hon. The Baroness Blatch; Madrid to meet Spanish Minister for Europe

6 February 1995: The Right hon. The Baroness Blatch; Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels

10 February 1995: Right hon. David Maclean; Council of Europe Conference on Equality and Democracy, Strasbourg

21–23 February 1995: Right hon. David Maclean; South Africa on export promotion

9–10 March 1995: Right hon. Michael Forsyth; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Brussels

19 April 1995: Right hon. Michael Forsyth; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Paris

24–27 April 1995: Right hon. Michael Forsyth; visit high security prisons in the USA

30 April–2 May 1995: Right hon. David Maclean; visit to Bosnia

12 June 1995:Home Secretary; meeting new French Minister of the Interior in Paris

20–21 June 1995: Home Secretary; Justice and Home Affairs Council, Luxembourg.

For 1993–94 the cost of ministerial visits, excluding private secretaries and other accompanying officials, was £39,891. On the same basis the cost for 1994–95 was £40,440 and £13,191 for the same period April to June 1995.

The only figures available for 1992–93 relate to visits by Ministers and senior officials. The costs of these amounted to £131,792. The figures cannot be compared with those for later years since they are on a different basis.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Madden: To ask the First Secretary of State if he will list his responsibilities upon which he is prepared to answer written parliamentary questions, and the arrangements for right hon. and hon. Members to ask him oral parliamentary question on a regular basis at other times than when he is deputising for the Prime Minister. [33974]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I propose to answer questions on my responsibilities for all Office of Public Service matters. I will be assisted on all business by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, to whom questions on Duchy matters should be addressed. Further announcements will be made in due course on the rota for answering oral parliamentary questions.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Madden: To ask the First Secretary of State where his office is located; how many staff are directly responsible to him; what is the total number of staff he expects will be responsible to him; if he has a separate departmental budget; and if he will make a statement about the role of his office. [33975]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the replies given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Members for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger) and for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 11 July 1995 *Official Report*, columns *496-97*.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials to public funds for each year since 1992. [32259]

Mr. Freeman: The information requested is given in the table:

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Date	*Destination*	*Purpose*	*Duration*	*Officials attending*	*Cost to public funds*
28–29 April 1992	Brussels/Luxembourg	EC Research Council	2 days	Five	[1]—
29–30 July 1992	Paris	Carnegie Group	2 days	None	[1]—
8–9 September 1992	Rome/Bonn	Science Visit	2 days	Two	[1]—
11–12 October 1992	Luxembourg	EC Research Council	2 days	Five	[1]—

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Date	*Destination*	*Purpose*	*Duration*	*Officials attending*	*Cost to public funds*
10 November 1992	Madrid	Science Visit	1 day	Two	[1]—
8–9 December 1992	Brussels	EC Research Council	2 days	Five	[1]—
21–24 May 1993	Toronto	Carnegie Group	4 days	None	£2,239
30 June 1993	Luxembourg	EC Research Council	1 day	Five	£1,995
0–13 September 1993	Geneva	Visit to CERN	4 days	Four	£1,604
23–30 September 1993	Japan	Science Visit	8 days	Three	£28,216
17–18 October 1993	Washington	Science and Public Service Visit	2 days	Two	£12,641
3–6 December 1993	Bonn/Brussels	Carnegie Group	4 days	None	£506
21 March 1994	Brussels	EC Research Council	1 day	One	£1,397
9–13 June 1994	Japan	Carnegie Group	5 days	None	£4,986
17–18 July 1994	Germany	EC Research Council	2 days	Five	£1,176
29 September 1994 to 9 October 1994	Israel/Jordan/Occupied Territories	Science and in the Occupied Territories Public Services Visit	11 days	Two	£4,787
8 February 1994	Paris	Meeting with the French Minister for Science	1 day	Two	£683
23–28 February 1995	Mauritius/South Africa	Speech in Mauritius on Public Sector Reform; Science Mission to South Africa (including signature of agreement)	6 days	Five	£22,001
7–8 March 1995	Geneva	Visit to CERN	2 days	Four	£1,995
11–18 May 1995	Washington/Ottawa	Carnegie Group; Discussions on Machinery of Government; Public Service Reform and Science	8 days	Six	£31,509
27 May 1995 to 6 June 1995	Mexico/Brazil	Building Links on Science and Technology and Public Sector Reform	11 days	Four	£27,048

Note:
[1] Figures for financial year 1992/93 could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

Parliamentary Secretary

Date	*Destination*	*Purpose*	*Duration*	*Officials attending*	*Cost to public funds*
Summer 1992	Milan/Rome	Joint Research Centre/meeting with Italian Minister for Public Service	Not known	One	[1]—
September 1992	Brussels/Budapest	EC Research Council/Academic Europa	Not known	One	[1]—
11 October 1993	Luxembourg	EC Research Council	1 day	Three	£2,076
4 March 1994	Brussels	EC Research Council	1 day	Three	£1,574
23–30 September 1994	Brussels/Geneva/Glenoble	EC Research Council/visit to CERN/Inauguration Ceremony for the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility	2 days	Five	£3,803
1–2 December 1994	Brussels	EC Research Council	2 days	Three	£1,941
16 February 1995	Nancy, France	Meeting of European Public Service Ministers	1 day	Two	£1,136
9 June 1995	Luxembourg	EC Research Council	1 day	Three	£1,728

Note:
[1] Figures for financial year 1992–93 could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

China

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the assistance given by the United Nations Population Fund in helping China organise censuses and demographic surveys; and if the data acquired from such activities have been or can be used for targeting areas for population control. [32020]

Mr. Hanley: The United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, assisted with China's 1980 and 1990 censuses, providing equipment, technical advice on data tabulation and analysis and training abroad at places such as the United States Bureau of Census. Census data in China, as in all other countries, are used as the basis for the Government's development plans. UNFPA's assistance is a basis for encouraging the development of humane population policies in China. It is not provided with the intention of supporting or sanctioning any particular aspect of current Chinese population policy, or its interpretation.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when delegations from Her Majesty's Government have investigated Chinese population policies since 1979; and what conclusions were reached. [32015]

Mr. Hanley: Lord Howe led an official delegation to China in December 1992 to look at human rights issues. The mission noted the growing attention paid by the Chinese authorities to international concerns about human rights and welcomed their willingness to continue the dialogue on human rights issues with any subsequent missions.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the number of individual associations within the Chinese family planning association; and what figures exist for the number of household links established by the CFPA. [32011]

Mr. Hanley: We understand from the International Planned Parenthood Federation that the China Family Planning Association, CFPA, consists of about 915,000 individual associations. We do not have reliable information on the number of household links established by the CFPA.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the date at which it first became obligatory under Chinese law to have intrauterine devices inserted after a first child; and what estimates he has on the number of IUD insertions since that date. [32019]

Mr. Hanley: We understand that there is no Chinese national law making it obligatory to insert IUDs after a first child. Information provided by the United Nations Population Fund suggests that approximately 40 per cent. of all female contraceptive acceptors are using the IUD.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the system of birth permits in China; how the system operates; whether he interprets it as coercive; and what statement regarding birth permits have been made by the IPPF and the UNFPA. [32013]

Mr. Hanley: We are aware that local authorities in China have attempted to influence fertility rates by approving which women may give birth in a given community in any year. Both the United Nations Population Fund, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, have repeatedly made it clear that women and men should be able to choose freely the number and spacing of their children and have expressed their abhorrence of coercion in any form. The Chinese Government are aware that the UNFPA will fund activities that take place in provinces only where systems of birth permits, quotas and targets do not exist.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the number of UNFPA employees based in China since 1979; and how many have been seconded to, attached to or worked in association with the Chinese State Family Planning Commission. [32021]

Mr. Hanley: The United Nations Population Fund's staffing in China has varied depending on the size of its programme. In mid-1994, there were eight international staff, 10 full-time Chinese staff and two part-time Chinese staff. There has always been one country director co-ordinating the work of UNFPA. The present one is its sixth since 1979. At no time has any UNFPA staff member been assigned to work for the State Family Planning Commission.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has on the links between the Chinese State Family Planning Commission and the Chinese Family Planning Association with the Chinese national family planning journal and Chinese provincial family planning reports; if his Department receives copies of the journal and reports; and what information he has on the prevalence of recommendations for coercive methods of population control in both sources since 1990. [32009]

Mr. Hanley: We do not receive copies of these publications, and cannot comment on their content or links with the Chinese State Family Planning Commission and the China Family Planning Association.

Indonesia

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many current or former Indonesian police officers who received any form of training paid for by his Department served with the riot police, Sabhara unit of the Indonesian national police *(a)* before such training, *(b)* during such training and *(c)* after such training; if he will give the name of each such officer, the dates of his training and the dates of his service with the riot police. [31757]

Mr. Hanley: According to the Indonesian national police, no officer who has received training support under the police project has served with the Sabhara unit.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 3 March, *Official Report*, column 727, if he will name the Indonesian police officers who have been trained, for whatever length of time, under the police management training project since it began, in each case specifying the officer's rank and the date of commencement and of completion of the training. [31705]

Mr. Hanley: Since the national police management training project began in June 1990 we have provided UK training for the following:

Name	*Rank*	*Date training commenced*	*Date training completed*
1990–91			
Scholarships			
Mr. Yusnar Arsyad	Lieutenant Colonel	16 August 1990	15th December 1990
Mr. Adjie Rustarn Ramdja	Major	16 August 1990	15th December 1990
Mr. Deddy S.K.	Lieutenant Colonel	16 August 1990	15th December 1990
Mr. Medhy Chumadi	Lieutenant	16 August 1990	15th December 1990

Name	*Rank*	*Date training commenced*	*Date training completed*
Study tours			
Mr. C.H.M. Waskito	Colonel	July 1990	July 1990
Mr. F. Sumampow	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1990	July 1990
Mr. H. Rasyid	Colonel	July 1990	July 1990
Mr. Soebariliyono	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1990	July 1990
Mr. Suryaningprang	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1990	July 1990
Mr. Y.Y. Laoli	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1990	July 1990
Mr. D. Rustadi	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1990	July 1990
Mr. M. Thonyib	Captain	July 1990	July 1990
Mr. N. Eko	Captain	July 1990	July 1990
Mr. Lihawa	Brigadier General	July 1990	July 1990
1991–92			
Scholarships			
Mrs. Minton Mariaty Simanjuntak	Major	13 September 1991	12th December 1991
Mr. Soekamid	Major	1 October 1991	30th September 1992
Mr Yadi Ermlady	Captain	1 October 1991	30th September 1992
Study tours			
Mr. G. Sumampow	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1991	July 1991
Mr. H. Rasyid	Colonel	July 1991	July 1991
Mr. Soebarilyono	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1991	July 1991
Mr. M. Suryaningprang	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1991	July 1991
Mr. Y.Y. Laoli	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1991	July 1991
Mr. D. Rustadi	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1991	July 1991
Mr. M. Thoyib	Captain	July 1991	July 1991
Mr. N. Eko	Captain	July 1991	July 1991
1991–92			
Study tours			
Mr. Soekamid	Major	July 1991	July 1991
Mr. Y. Ermlady	Captain	July 1991	July 1991
1992–93			
Scholarships			
Mr. Soekamid	Major	1 October 1992	30th September 1993
Mr. Yadi Ermlady	Captain	1 October 1992	30th September 1994
Ms Pengasihan Gaut	Major	1 August 1992	30th November 1992
Mr. Adjie Rustam Ramdja	Major	8 December 1992	7th April 1993
Mr. Pepe Tjhjana	Lieutenant Colonel	8 December 1992	7th April 1993
Study tours			
Mr. C.H.M Waskito	Colonel	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. F. Sumampow	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. H. Rasyid	Colonel	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. Soebariliyono	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. Suryaningprang	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. Y.Y. Laoli	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. D. Rustadi	Lieutenant Colonel	July 1992	July 1992
Ms Hemawati	Major	July 1992	July 1992
Ms M. Simanjuntak	Major	July 1992	July 1992
Ms R.P. Gaut	Major	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. M. Thoyib	Captain	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. N. Eko	Captain	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. M.B. Hutagalung	Major General	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. R. Lihawa	Brigadier General	July 1992	July 1992
Mr. Karyoso	Brigadier General	July 1992	July 1992
1993–94			
Scholarships			
Mr. Herman Rasyid	Colonel	21 May 1993	20th June 1993
1994–95			
Scholarships			
Mr. Wakin	Major	1 July 1994	30th October 1994
Mr. Nicholas Eko	Captain	1 August 1994	
Mr. James Sitorus	Lieutenant Colonel	1 August 1994	
Mr. Fred Sumampow	Lieutenant Colonel	13 April 1995	12th June 1995

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 3 March, *Official Report*, column 727, if he will name the Indonesian police officers who have undergone study tours, for whatever length of time, to the United Kingdom since 1985, in each case specifying the officer's rank and the dates of commencement and completion of the study tour. [21758]

Mr. Hanley *[holding reply 30 June 1995]*: No study tours—visits of less than one month duration—took place between 1985 and 1990. Details of training since 1990 were given in my answer to the hon. Lady's further question concerning this project—No. 31705. The following longer-term training was undertaken during the period 1985–90.

Name	*Rank*	*Date training commenced*	*Date training completed*
1985–86			
Mr. Isnawan	Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Baruno	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Yusar H.	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Kresno Sukamso	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Heru Tjipto Harsono	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. A. H. Sitorus	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. S. A. Supardi	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Hamami Nata	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Sebastian Koto	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Astika	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Ledwijk	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Herman Hidayat	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Adna Isa	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. J. D. Sitorus	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Fred Sumampow	Lieutenant Colonel	30 July 1985	18 December 1985
Mr. Chaerudin	Lieutenant Colonel	Dates not known	Date not known
1986–87			
Mr. Djumjatni G	Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Murni Tukiman	Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. I. N. Yudana	Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Iksan	Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Asikin Nadikusumah	Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Soemitro	Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Dasuki	Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Pepe Tjahjana	Lieutenant Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Dadang Garnida	Lieutenant Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Deddy S K	Lieutenant Colonel	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Tjoek Sugiarso	Major	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Basjir A. Barmawai	Major	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Riswadi Herry S	Major	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
1986–87			
Scholarships			
Mr. M. Nian Sjafudin	Major	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Moch Saudi	Major	6 October 1986	6 December 1986
Mr. Rachmat	Lieutenant Colonel	Date not known	Date not known
Mr. M. Hindarto	Colonel	April 1986	September 1986
1998–99			
Mr. Ronny Lihawa	Colonel	October 1988	September 1989
Mr. Isnawan	Colonel	October 1988	September 1989

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 30 June, *Official Report*, column *802*, what were the "relevant quarters" from which advice was sought on the police management training project in Indonesia; what advice was given on the issue of human rights; and at what Departmental level the project was approved. [33033]

Mr. Hanley: I have nothing to add to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Banbury (Mr. Baldry) on 30 June. Official advice to Ministers is given in confidence.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his answer of 12 June, *Official Report*, column *381*, if he will make a statement on the term "appropriate appraisals"; if he will define the term "full appraisal" in the letter of the Minister for Overseas Development of 20 January; and what is the difference between the two forms of appraisal. [33032]

Mr. Hanley: In a statement made on 17 June 1993 by the Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the House was informed of the future of the aid and trade provision, ATP, following a review of the programme. This included specific measures to improve the effectiveness of ATP. Appraisal procedures were brought into line with those applied to other bilateral aid projects to provide the same level of assurance concerning their soundness and sustainability.

The new procedures came into effect on 17 June 1993.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to monitor the post-training careers of Indonesian police officers who have received any form of training paid for by his Department for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the training in improving the officers respect for human rights. [31759]

Mr. Hanley *[holding reply 30 June 1995]:* The project, including training, is monitored on an annual basis.

Burma

Miss Lestor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will review the current restrictions on non-governmental organisation funding in Burma to allow a greater availability of funding for long-term community development projects implemented by NGOs. [32429]

Mr. Hanley: United Kingdom assistance to Burma is currently available only for funding of humanitarian projects by NGOs. The policy is kept under review.

Miss Lestor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will support the continuation of the work of the United Nations Development Programme in Burma, implementing a programme based on direct assistance to communities, when the governing council reviews the agency's mandate. [32428]

Mr. Hanley: We have supported the UNDP's approach so far and will consider maintaining this position when the Burma country programme is next reviewed in the UNDP executive board.

Miss Lestor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of international assistance currently devoted to aid projects helping Burmese communities; and if he will make a statement on future United Kingdom aid plans for Burma. [32430]

Mr. Hanley: We have not undertaken an assessment of the level of international assistance currently devoted to aid projects helping Burmese communities. Other than funding of certain humanitarian projects by non-governmental organisations, there are no plans to provide official development aid to Burma at present. This policy has been agreed with our EU partners.

Joint Funding Scheme

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the number of joint funding scheme contracts issued by country and region in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95.

Mr. Hanley: Details of the numbers of joint funding scheme contracts issued by country and region in 1993–94 and 1994–95 are shown in the tables.

Joint funding scheme contracts issued in 1993–94

Asia region 44 projects	*Africa region 49 projects*	*Americas region 12 projects*	*Oceania region 3 projects*
Asia Gen 1	Africa Gen 4	Bolivia 1	Fiji 2
Bangladesh 8	Angola 1	Brazil 2	Vanuatu 1
Bhutan 1	Botswana 1	Chile 1	
Cambodia 6	Cameroon 1	El Salvador 2	
India 17	Egypt 1	Guatemala 1	
Laos 2	Ethiopia 3	Nicaragua 2	
Nepal 1	Gambia 1	Peru 3	
Pakistan 1	Ghana 2		
Philippines 2	Kenya 8		
Lebanon 1	Lesotho 2		
Sri Lanka 4	Mozambique 1		
	Namibia 2		
	Niger 2		
	Sierra Leone 4		
	South Africa 2		
	Swaziland 1		
	Tanzania 2		
	Togo 1		
	Uganda 6		
	Zambia 1		
	Zimbabwe 3		

Joint funding scheme contracts issued in 1994–95

Asia region 48 projects	*Africa region 78 projects*	*America region 21projects*	*Oceania region 2 projects*	*Various regions 1 project*
Bangladesh 3	Africa 1	Belize 1	Fiji 1	Various 1
Cambodia 5	Cameroon 1	Bolivia 1	Papua New Guinea 1	
India 20	Chad 2	Brazil 2		
Indonesia 1	Ethiopia 8	Caribbean 1		
Lebanon 1	Gambia 2	Chile 1		
Nepal 2	Ghana 3	Costa Rica 1		
Occupied Territories 2	Kenya 8	Ecuador 1		
Pakistan 2	Malawi 4	El Salvador 2		
Philippines 4	Mali 3	Guatemala 1		
Sri Lanka 5	Mozambique 1	Honduras 1		
Thailand 1	Sierra Leone 3	Nicaragua 6		
Vietnam 1	South Africa 3	Peru 3		
West Bank 1	Southern Africa 1			
	Sudan 2			
	Swaziland 2			
	Tanzania 6			
	Togo 2			
	Uganda 17			
	Zaire 1			
	Zambia 2			
	Zimbabwe 6			

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was the size of the joint funding scheme budget in *(a)* 1993–94, *(b)* 1994–95, and *(c)* 1995–96. [33264]

Mr. Hanley: The joint funding scheme budget was £29 million in 1993–94 and £33 million in 1994–95. The budget for 1995–96 has risen to £34.85 million.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications were made to the joint funding scheme in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95; and how many were successful. [33263]

Mr. Hanley: A total of 241 applications were made to the joint funding scheme for funding in 1993–94, 108 of which were successful; 291 applications were made for funding in 1994–95, 150 of which were successful.

Central Africa

Mr. Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the impact of the International Monetary Fund-sponsored good government initiative, on the economies of central Africa, with particular reference to the impact of the initiative on training and development and on the indigenous co-operative movements in central Africa. [32428]

Mr. Hanley: We are not aware of any such initiative.

El Salvador

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the activities of the Commonwealth Development Corporation in El Salvador. [33267]

Mr. Hanley: The Commonwealth Development Corporation, CDC, received approval to operate in El Salvador from my right hon. and noble Friend the Minister for Overseas Development in September 1994. As yet, the CDC has made no investments or commitments there, but it is currently looking at opportunities in tourism, manufacturing and industry.

Kenya

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will be leading the British team at the donors' meeting with the Government of Kenya on 24 July; what undertakings the British Government will be seeking from the Government of Kenya; which human rights issues he will be raising with the Government of Kenya; and if he will raise the trial of Koigi Wa Wamwere and other issues related to the conduct of justice in Kenya. [33046]

Mr. Hanley: The British team will be led by the head of the British development division in east Africa. Democracy, good government and human rights, as well as economic issues, are likely to be discussed. Whilst there has been good progress in some respects, we shall be pressing the Kenyan authorities to maintain their efforts on all aspects of the reform process.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government of Kenya have sought or been offered to help in the development of a better justice system. [33798]

Mr. Hanley *[holding reply 11 July 1995]:* We have discussed a number of possible areas of assistance with the Government of Kenya, including support for the office of the Attorney-General and for the Kenya police force. We have conducted institutional appraisals of both organisations, and expect to sign shortly a senior command and human rights awareness police training programme. We are also considering support for non-governmental organisations providing legal aid.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Alan Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what guidance and training is being given to staff concerning the treatment of people who are appealing against a decision that they are capable of work but are signing on as unemployed pending their appeal. [32042]

Mr. Burt: This is a matter for Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member with such information as is available.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Alan Howarth, dated 11 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary question about the guidance and training given to staff concerning the treatment of people who appeal against a decision that they are capable of work but are signing on as unemployed pending their appeal.

General advice to staff dealing with incapacity benefits and customers found capable of work has not changed with the introduction of Incapacity Benefit (IB). Customers are advised to claim Unemployment Benefit and or Income Support until their appeal is heard. Guidance is given in standing instructions which were amended to take account of the introduction of IB.

Training material was issued to Income Support staff at Benefits Agency offices in January 1995 and was followed by a comprehensive procedures circular issued in March 1995; both documents reminded staff of existing procedures.

Benefit Agency staff are acutely aware of the sensitivities in dealing with customers who appeal against a decision that they are capable of work.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Social Fund

Mr. William O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list those Benefits Agency offices which achieved targets for community care grants decisions between 1 April 1994 and 31 March 1995. [33687]

Mr. Roger Evans: The administration of the social fund is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. William O'Brien, dated 11 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about listing those Benefits Agency (BA) offices which achieved their targets for Community Care Grants (CCG) between 1st April 1994 and 31st March 1995.

At present, Social Fund performance is measured against a standard time for processing each type of application. This is based on the time it takes to clear the more straightforward cases. For CCG applications the aim is to process 65 per cent. in the standard

time of seven days. To ensure proper emphasis is given to the remaining applications, a secondary measure is set which is 95 per cent. in 20 days.

I have provided, at Annex A, details of the CCG performance of all BA Districts for 1994/95. I am pleased to state that all BA Districts met the primary CCG target.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Annex A: Community Care grant performance by district 1994–95

District	Target: 65 per cent. in 7 days Achievement Per cent.	Target: 95 per cent. in 20 days Achievement Per cent.
Bankside	93.20	98.65
Barking and Havering	91.03	98.48
Barnet	91.23	99.38
Barnsley	96.91	99.74
Bedfordshire	83.23	98.39
Berkshire	87.22	96.69
Birmingham Chamberlain	85.31	98.82
Birmingham Heartlands	86.13	98.57
Birmingham North West	93.27	99.10
Birmingham South East	79.75	99.20
Birmingham South West	89.87	98.51
Blackburn and Accrington	88.88	98.34
Blackpool	85.74	98.59
Bolton	91.75	98.42
Bradford	93.64	98.81
Bristol Severnside	78.33	97.59
Brunel	81.39	98.14
Buckinghamshire	92.45	98.70
Burnley Pendle Rossendale	85.16	98.42
Cambridgeshire	88.62	98.27
Canterbury and Thanet	79.07	97.46
Central Derbyshire	89.77	97.95
Central Staffordshire	77.09	98.95
Channel	90.03	97.94
Chesterfield and Worksop	79.30	96.72
City East	83.68	98.47
Clyde Coast and Cowal	92.39	99.35
Clyde Valley	89.99	99.32
Coatbridge	93.23	99.08
Cornwall	85.12	97.70
Coventry[1]	72.48	94.90
Cynon Merthyr Rhymney Valley	93.24	99.31
Devonia	85.75	97.77
Doncaster	84.47	97.47
Dorset	90.07	98.18
Essex Southwest	92.05	99.37
Ealing[1]	72.12	94.06
East Lowlands	79.28	96.80
East Nottinghamshire	88.02	98.41
East Sussex	85.63	97.43
East Yorkshire	89.75	99.09
Essex South East	95.24	99.03
Euston[1]	67.62	94.97
Fife	93.54	99.13
Forth Valley	87.95	99.05
Glasgow City	91.61	98.63
Glasgow East	87.15	98.11
Glasgow Laurieston	91.89	98.97
Glasgow South West	94.90	99.23
Glasgow West	97.18	99.44
Gloucestershire	78.78	98.02
Grampian and Shetland	86.64	98.37
Gwennigion	86.80	98.41
Hackney and Islington	81.45	97.59
Hampshire North	90.24	97.55
Harrow and Hillingdon	89.55	98.76
Hereford and Worcester	83.52	97.15
Highlands and Islands	86.58	98.64
Hounslow and Kingston[1]	69.91	91.92

Annex A: Community Care grant performance by district 1994–95

District	Target: 65 per cent. in 7 days Achievement Per cent.	Target: 95 per cent. in 20 days Achievement Per cent.
Hull	91.39	98.64
Irvine Kilmarnock	79.56	97.20
Kirklees	90.35	98.22
Knowsley	80.86	98.37
Lancaster and South Cumbria	85.28	97.77
Lea Roding	85.26	96.92
Leaside	62.55	95.68
Leeds Aire and Wharfe	89.52	98.33
Leeds Ridings	90.45	98.44
Lewisham and Brixton	84.43	97.75
Liverpool Central	92.97	98.97
Liverpool North	85.05	98.45
Liverpool South	83.14	98.40
Lomond and Argyll	89.47	98.24
London Central	94.82	99.31
Lothian Central	92.71	98.73
Lothian West	91.77	99.01
Manchester Central	85.34	97.05
Manchester South	96.48	99.23
Manchester Trinity	81.59	97.97
Mid Wales and Maelor	96.79	99.36
Neasden	72.84	95.43
Newcastle upon Tyne	92.33	99.33
Newham	84.03	96.48
North and East Herts.	90.20	98.12
North Cheshire	93.35	99.04
North Cumbria	73.40	97.85
North Durham	90.61	99.06
North Essex	91.07	98.47
North Gwent and Brecon	94.74	99.44
North Kent	83.80	96.63
North Leicestershire[1]	81.65	93.48
North Nottinghamshire	86.04	97.94
North Staffordshire	94.17	98.88
North Surrey	84.57	97.57
North Tees	83.50	99.08
North Tyneside	88.67	98.74
North Wales Coast	82.97	96.88
North Worcestershire	95.96	99.51
North Yorkshire	91.44	98.36
Northamptonshire	83.19	97.29
Northumberland	86.74	98.63
Norwich	90.31	98.83
Nottinghamshire West	78.83	97.95
Ogwr Afan Nedd	80.18	98.27
Oldham	88.47	98.01
Oxfordshire	85.88	96.78
Palace	80.77	95.92
Preston	92.80	98.94
Renfrew	85.35	99.10
Rother and Dearne	88.98	99.30
Sale and East Cheshire	90.61	98.66
Salford	86.57	98.28
Sandwell	94.74	99.07
Sefton	91.71	97.99
Sheffield East	87.49	97.26
Sheffield West	81.65	98.60
Shropshire	95.34	99.02
Solent and Forest	81.42	97.43
Somerset	82.33	97.79
South Cheshire	90.20	98.84
South Derbyshire	81.65	97.63
South Devon	88.64	98.06
South Downs	86.29	98.30
South Durham	95.35	99.17
South East Hants. and Wight	76.58	98.59
South Glamorgan	91.21	97.77
South Gwent and Islwyn	90.55	99.34
South Humberside	93.40	98.77

Annex A: Community Care grant performance by district 1994–95

District	*Target: 65 per cent. in 7 days Achievement Per cent.*	*Target: 95 per cent. in 20 days Achievement Per cent.*
South Leicestershire	77.08	97.94
South Tees	81.63	97.74
South Tyneside	86.27	98.54
South West Lancashire	88.95	98.84
South West Scotland	89.80	98.59
South West Thames	84.24	97.23
Springburn and Cumbernauld	87.54	99.50
Stockport	85.64	97.68
Suffolk	85.14	98.02
Surrey Downs	90.96	98.47
Swansea	87.73	98.51
Taff Rhondda	92.19	99.03
Tameside	95.08	99.08
Tayside	82.94	99.53
Thameside	83.85	96.54
Wakefield	85.31	98.18
Walsall	92.92	99.26
Warwickshire	76.83	98.38
Wash Coast	95.05	99.42
Wearside	95.10	99.34
West Herts.	79.80	96.83
West Kent	82.58	96.83
West Lincolnshire	90.62	99.11
West Pennine	96.07	99.49
West Sussex	85.70	98.20
West Wales	92.19	98.31
Wigan and Leigh	76.76	97.61
Wiltshire	72.59	97.00
Wirral	88.04	98.72
Wolverhampton	95.35	99.61
Yorkshire Pennine	84.33	97.62

[1] BA Districts which did not meet the secondary target of 95 per cent., clearance in 20 days.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people were successful in gaining an exceptional needs payment in the last year of operation of the scheme; and how many people were granted similar payments from the social fund in the last year for which figures are available. [32832]

Mr. Roger Evans: There were 1.1 million exceptional needs payments made in 1979–80, the last year of the scheme. There were 1.9 million awards from the discretionary social fund made in 1994–95.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how may *(a)* claimants and *(b)* organisations have made representations about difficulty experienced in the repayment of social security loans. [32830]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information requested is not available.

Mortgage Interest

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what response he has made to representations from the mortgage insurance industry about the availability of private mortgage insurance for poor families. [32834]

Mr. Roger Evans: I have had no such specific representations from the mortgage insurance industry about the availability of private mortgage insurance for poor families. However, the Association of British Insurers takes the view that if a person qualifies for a mortgage then there is no reason why they should not also qualify for insurance.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what are the implications of his proposals for cuts in mortgage interest payments for the 1991 agreement in respect of Council of Mortgage Lenders. [32835]

Mr. Roger Evans: From October this year, we expect the 1991 agreement to apply to cases where we continue to meet the full interest payments. In cases where the 1991 agreement no longer applies we would not expect to see an increase in arrears or repossessions as most borrowers will take out insurance.

We believe that it is important that lenders make clear to their borrowers their practice in relation to arrears, and that borrowers fully understand their obligations when entering into a mortgage contract. We are working closely with the council of Mortgage Lenders to develop a leaflet which sets out details of benefit entitlement and borrowers' rights and responsibilities in relation to lenders and insurers.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what representations he has received alleging that inadequacy of income support in respect of mortgage interest payments is resulting in claimants going into rented accommodation and claiming the higher rate of housing benefit. [32836]

Mr. Roger Evans: I have had no such representations.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what has been the cost in housing benefit in the last year of claimants formerly receiving income support in respect of mortgage interest payments and subsequently going into rented accommodation. [32837]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information requested is not available.

Funeral Expenses

Mr. Rowlands: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what his estimated savings will be *(a)* in restricting social fund funeral expenses towards the cost of embalming the body for a journey in excess of 25 miles, *(b)* by limiting social fund funeral expenses towards the cost of floral tributes to £25 and *(c)* by the alteration of the definition of close relative and partner in relation to the social fund payments of funeral expenses. [32707]

Mr. Roger Evans: We estimate the savings will be in the order of: *(a)* £2 million; *(b)* £2 million; *(c)* £1.3 million.

Social Security Expenditure

Mr. Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the total annual spending on social security in *(a)* 1990–91, *(b)* 1991–92, *(c)* 1992–93 and *(d)* 1993–94; and if he will list the total (i) in real and (ii) in percentage terms of gross domestic product. [32951]

Mr. Burt: The information requested is in the table.

Social Security expenditure:

	1990–91	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*
Cash terms	£59,713 million	£69,878 million	£79,342 million	£86,896 million
Real terms (93–94 prices)	£68,012 million	£74,884 million	£81,770 million	£86,896 million
As percentage of GDP	11 per cent.	12 per cent.	13 per cent.	14 per cent.

The figures have been taken from the 1995 Social Security Departmental Report and include administrative costs as well as additional local authority expenditure on housing and community charge\council tax benefits.

Income Support

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, column *359*, what information on severe hardship claims and awards is available other than national figures. [33937]

Mr. Roger Evans: Information is available from 1988 by Department of Social Security region, monthly on a national basis, broken down into successful and unsuccessful applications. A monthly breakdown by Benefits Agency territory is available from 1992. Since April 1993 information has been collected monthly by district offices in the categories new, repeat or continuous application; and whether successful or unsuccessful.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33859]

Mr. Burt: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33890]

Mr. Burt: The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33878]

Mr. Burt: The information requested is not available.

Habitual Residence Test

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the cost of administration of the habitual residence test and of the appeal system; and what proportion of the money saved by non-payment is spent on administration. [33799]

Mr. Roger Evans: The cost of administering the habitual residence test for 1995–96 is estimated at £3.3 million. The allocation to the Independent Tribunal Service for administering the appeal system as a whole in 1995–96 is £48.6 million. It is not possible to apportion the costs of appeals against the habitual residence test. The estimated saving from introducing the habitual residence test is £30 million annually.

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many claimants have been refused benefit, per month, since the introduction of the habitual residence test; of these, how many have appealed; and how many appeals have been upheld. [33803]

Mr. Roger Evans: I refer the hon. Member to the replies that I gave to the hon. Member for Newham, North-East (Mr. Timms) on 18 April, *Official Report*, column *43*, on 21 April, *Official Report*, column *314*, on 1 May, *Official Report*, column *7* and on 10 July, *Official Report*, columns *449–50*.

Numbers of claimants who have been refused housing benefit and council tax benefit because of the habitual residence test are being recorded from the 1995–96 tax year and will be available in December 1996.

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what representations he has received concerning the future of the habitual residence test; and what plans he has to make changes in its operation. [33805]

Mr. Roger Evans: I have received a number of letters from Members of Parliament and the public. I have no current plans to change the test.

Pensions

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the cumulative sums saved by the Exchequer and his Department by the departure and domicile of those qualified for United Kingdom old age pensions, by virtue of their exemption from uprating, for the decade 1985–95, in *(a)* Australia, *(b)* Canada, *(c)* New Zealand and *(d)* South Africa, stating for each the increased sums in sterling to which each as a basic pension would receive for a pension first paid in 1985. [33047]

Mr. Heald: It is estimated that the cumulative cost[1] to the Social Security budget of paying all upratings of retirement pension from November 1985 to April 1994[2] to UK pensioners in the countries specified would have been *(a)* Australia £500 million, *(b)* Canada £275 million, *(c)* New Zealand £175 million, *(d)* South Africa £100 million.

The rate of basic pension payable to any individual depends on that person's national insurance contribution record. In November 1985, the rate payable to a person who fully satisfied the contribution conditions for a basic pension was £38.30. It is currently £58.85. Where the contribution conditions are not fully satisfied, a reduced pro rata pension is payable at rates varying from 98 per cent. to 25 per cent. of the full basic rate.

Note:

[1] The cost figures are estimates rounded to the nearest £25 million.

[2] The estimated cost of paying the April 1995 uprating to pensioners in countries where UK pensions are not uprated is not yet available.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to the answer of 3 July, *Official Report*, column *79*, if he will estimate the percentage of pensioners retiring on an income between 75 per cent. and 100 per cent. of average earnings; and what figure has been used as average earnings. [33710]

Mr. Heald: It is estimated that 12 per cent. of recently retired pensioner units have an income between 75 and 100 per cent. of average earnings. The average earnings figure used for the reply is £304.60 per week.

Source:

Family Expenditure Survey 1992.

Employment Gazette, February 1995.

Notes:

1. Average earnings are based on full time employees on adult rate in all industries and services for 1992.

2. Recently retired pensioner units are defined as single pensioner units and married couples where the individual or head of the household is less than five years over state pension age.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to the answer of 3 July, *Official Report*, column 79, if he will estimate the expenditure on rebates to members of contracted out money purchase schemes in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2030; and what estimate he has made of the number of members of (i) APPS and (ii) COMPS in each of those three years. [33711]

Mr. Heald: The estimated expenditure on the rebate for contracted-out money purchase schemes and the estimated numbers of members of appropriate personal pensions and COMPS are shown in the table. The level of the rebate will be reviewed regularly under the terms of the Pensions Bill 1995.

Year	APP numbers 000s	COMPS numbers 000s	COMPS rebates £ billion
2010	4,200	400	0.2
2020	3,600	400	0.3
2030	2,800	400	0.3

(Figures based on the assumptions detailed in the Government Actuary's report on the Pensions Bill 1995 CM 2714).

WALES

EDS

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the contracts his Department has with the computer company EDS. [33171]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The Welsh Office has no contracts with the computer company EDS.

Local Government Reorganisation

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement concerning local government reorganisation and job security of council employees. [33496]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The new authorities are responsible for deciding their staffing structures, including the number and grade of posts.

I wrote to the chairman of the Staff Commission for Wales in January, setting out our view that, in the first instance, it is for each new authority, in consultation with its predecessors, to decide which staff—over and above those covered by the TUPE regulations—should be transferred to it.

The decisions which councils reach will be reflected in the staff transfer order. We aim to publish the order for consultation in November 1995.

This process should reassure staff who are covered by the order about their immediate future, but it is for the new councils to decide what security of employment they wish to offer them beyond April 1996.

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with local government leaders concerning job security for employees when local government reorganisation takes place, and if he will make a statement. [33497]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: My right hon. Friend has had no such discussions since taking up his appointment.

Capital Receipts

Mr. Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the total amount of *(a)* usable and *(b)* set-aside capital receipts held by each local authority in Wales on 31 March. [33472]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The latest available information is given in the following table:

Capital receipts and outstanding loan debt at 31 March 1994[1]

	Usable receipts	Receipts awaiting final redemption[2]	Total outstanding loan debt
Alyn and Deeside	967	5,006	34,214
Colwyn	924	3,046	25,799
Delyn	0	0	30,027
Glyndwr	283	2,155	16,214
Rhuddlan	334	3,242	25,732
Wrexham Maelor	981	0	70,781
Carmarthen	1,857	6,751	35,364
Ceredigion	2,069	7,862	19,395
Dinefwr	370	3,310	25,639
Llanelli	1,056	3,021	42,445
Preseli Pembrokeshire	2,725	1,212	40,689
South Pembrokeshire	1,641	0	10,686
Blaenau Gwent	2,876	11,978	102,562
Islwyn	359	12,077	59,588
Monmouth	4,905	6,847	43,911
Newport	8,125	6,150	123,117
Torfaen	3,271	7,928	80,776
Aberconwy	1,793	2,928	18,801
Arfon	207	7,715	25,845
Dwyfor	314	1,039	14,713
Meirionnydd	0	749	9,163
Ynys Mon	60	4,084	51,270
Cynon Valley	0	5,134	49,381
Merthyr Tydfil	1,072	4,390	60,661
Ogwr	3,326	0	83,171
Rhondda	1,570	2,178	92,068
Rhymney Valley	1,107	6,067	69,422
Taff Ely	3,003	3,276	31,853
Brecknock	1,769	7,137	26,953
Montgomeryshire	1,574	11,523	21,284
Radnorshire	450	3,289	12,727
Cardiff	20,363	729	180,689
Vale of Glamorgan	5,716	24,269	55,662
Port Talbot	550	7,191	37,384
Lliw Valley	2,211	7,483	38,172
Neath	481	6,844	38,199
Swansea	268	11,367	128,489
Clwyd	2,216	15,827	131,446
Dyfed	1,318	4,597	113,084
Gwent	7,205	0	158,180
Gwynedd	2,615	3	76,420
Mid Glamorgan	3,915	1,741	120,829

Capital receipts and outstanding loan debt at 31 March 1994[1]

	Usable receipts	*Receipts awaiting final redemption*[2]	*Total outstanding loan debt*
Powys	431	4,627	52,729
South Glamorgan	2,563	0	155,000
West Glamorgan	1,971	0	158,502
Dyfed Powys Joint Police Authority	0	70	4,653
North Wales Joint Police Authority	846	1,610	3,368
South Wales Joint Police Authority	437	239	9,753

Source:
Local authority returns.
[1] Receipts figures include sales of capital assets and repayments of capital grants and advances.
[2] Including European Community grants.

Independent Schools

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many school-age pupils resident in each local education authority areas attend independent schools. [33494]

Mr. Richards: Information about the place of residence of pupils attending independent schools is not collected centrally. Total pupil numbers at independent schools, tabulated according to the local authority area in which the schools are located, are shown in table 1.06 of "Statistics of Education and Training in Wales: Schools No. 3 1995", a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

NHS Trust Members

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the members appointed to, and the vacancies that exist in, *(a)* the Clwydian trust, *(b)* the Wrexham Maelor trust and *(c)* Glan Clwyd trust; and if he will list the salaries concerned. [33498]

Mr. Richards: The members appointed together with their remunerations are as follows:

	Remuneration (£)[1]
(a) Clwydian Community Care Trust	
Chair:	
Mr. Edmund Francis Lloyd Fitzhugh OBE	19,285
Members:	
Mr. Christopher Powell	5,000
Professor Charles Fergus Lowe	5,000
Mr. Malcolm Charles Pratt	5,000
Ms Marion Claire Gerrard-Jones	5,000
Ms Susanne Jane Brierley[2]	5,000
(b) Wrexham Maelor Trust	
Chair	
Mr. Aldham Edward Roberts	17,145
Members	
Mr. John Philip Glyn Evans	5,000
Professor Geraint Meirwyn Roberts	5,000
Mr. Simon Dyson-Wingett	5,000
Mr. Idris Dwyryd Price	5,000
Mrs. Margaret Thomas	5,000
(c) Glan Clwyd Trust	
Chair:	
Mr. Edward Michael Wynne Griffith, CBE	11,020
Members:	
Mr. Trefor Glyn Jones, OBE	5,000
Professor Kenneth Walter Woodhouse	5,000
Mr. Ronald Francis Peter Drennan	5,000
Mrs. Elizabeth Alice Jones	5,000

[1] Those appointed as chairmen or non-executive directors are not salaried, but are entitled to receive a flat rate taxable remuneration.
[2] Ms Brierley has accepted an invitation to become a non-executive director. The Secretary of State will shortly be writing to confirm the appointment. Once confirmed there will be no vacancies on the above trusts.

Modern Apprenticeships

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the total spending in each Welsh county on modern apprenticeships in the past year; what were the amounts of under or overspendings; and what new subjects have now been added to the original courses offered. [33285]

Mr. Richards: The information requested on expenditure in 1994–95 is not available centrally on a county basis.

The development of modern apprenticeships is fundamental to creating the competitive edge that Welsh industry needs to compete in world markets. In 1994–95, the first year of modern apprenticeships, manufacturing engineering was made a priority and 550 trainees embarked on apprenticeships in this field. In 1995–96, support for modern and accelerated modern apprenticeships is being extended to other key occupational areas needed by Welsh businesses, as shown in the following table; and it is expected that a further 3,400 young people will start apprenticeship training during the course of the year.

Modern apprenticeships in Wales in 1995–96

Occupational area	*Gwent*	*Mid Glamorgan*	*North East Wales*	*Powys*	*South Glamorgan*	*Targed*	*West Wales*
Business/Finance	50	60	35	—	50	63	220
Tourism Leisure	—	—	5	—	25	—	—
Catering	—	15	—	—	25	32	—
Retail	—	70	20	—	35	36	—
Hairdressing	—	35	15	—	15	37	60
Child/Health Care	—	—	20	—	—	—	—
Chemicals	—	—	30	—	10	—	—
Agriculture/Horticulture	—	—	—	17	5	12	55
Construction	75	45	80	14	50	15	80
Engineering Manufacture	214	185	140	43	60	36	10

Modern apprenticeships in Wales in 1995–96

Occupational area	*Gwent*	*Mid Glamorgan*	*North East Wales*	*Powys*	*South Glamorgan*	*Targed*	*West Wales*
Electrical Installation	10	15	10	—	15	17	40
Plastics Manufacture	14	35	5	—	—	8	—
Steel	100	—	5	—	—	—	45
Motor Vehicle Trades	35	35	25	10	50	27	80
Information Technology	—	20	60	—	—	24	20
Non Specific	80	85	15	11	—	—	20
Modern Apprenticeships Total	578	630	485	95	350	320	950

Note:
Modern apprenticeships frameworks are still being developed in many areas like accountancy, banking, insurance, amenity horticulture etc. Non specified places are to allow these to be introduced as they are developed.

Cardiologists

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is his latest estimate of the number of specialist cardiologists in post in the NHS in Wales; and if he will list the numbers for each of the previous five years. [33330]

Mr. Richards: The information, which relates to the whole-time equivalent number of consultant cardiologists in post at 30 September, is given in the following list:

1989: 3.1
1990: 4.6
1991: 4.6
1992: 6.1
1993: 9.1
1994: 9.0

Cardiac Mortality

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the cardiac mortality rate for each year since 1989; and if he will provide a breakdown by health authority area in Wales. [33329]

Mr. Richards: The available information is in the following table:

Cardiac mortality (ICD 390–429) per 100,000 residents

Area of residence	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*
Wales	397	381	380	371	408
Clwyd	405	382	421	407	434
East Dyfed	461	425	422	408	455
Pembrokeshire	401	352	360	342	400
Gwent	395	394	374	386	405
Gwynedd	410	399	398	368	437
Mid Glamorgan	400	384	367	365	409
Powys	428	366	396	403	414
South Glamorgan	329	333	329	308	354
West Glamorgan	398	388	375	367	398

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five year; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33884]

Mr. Hague: Details of the contracts awarded to computer consultants in the financial years 1992–93, 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 are as follows. Information relating to the periods prior to 1992–93 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

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Mr. Hague: Details of the contracts awarded to computer consultants in the financial years 1992–93, 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 are as follows. Information relating to the periods prior to 1992–93 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Consultants	*Number of contracts*
Axis	5
DBI Associates	1
Computer Management Consultants	1
Easams Ltd.	3
The Government Centre for Information Systems	7
NCC Consultancy	1
KPMG Management Consulting	1
Admiral Management Services	1
IPL	1
Software Personnel	2
SPS Ltd.	1
MVA Systematica	1
Praxis Plc	2
DMS	1
Softa and Company Ltd.	1
JBA International plc	2
Computercentre Ltd.	1
Saftynet plc	1
KOALA Publishing	2
Mouncey and Partners	2
ICL	1
Mountfields	1
MMM Consultancies	1
Comms Associates	1
W. S. Atkins	2
BIS Information Systems	1
Ernts and Young	1
Price Waterhouse	1
Gower Business Systems	1

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33867]

Mr. Hague: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33866]

Mr. Hague: Details of the information technology consultants employed in the financial years 1992–93, 1993–94, 1994–95 and expenditure to date this financial year are given as follows. Information relating to the periods prior to 1992–93 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

1992–93: £380,799
1993–94: £521,094
1994–95: £591,007
1995–96: £97,364

Estimated expenditure on consultancies over the next five years is some £1,215,000.

Grant-maintained Schools

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many ballots for schools to become grant-maintained have been held in the last 12 months; and what was the result in each case. [33828]

Mr. Richards: Six ballots were held, all of which resulted in a vote against seeking grant-maintained status.

Welsh Correspondence

Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make it his policy to sign official letters from his office which are in the Welsh language. [33712]

Mr. Hague: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Caerphilly (Mr. Davies) on Tuesday 11 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *514*.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Public Bodies

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which members of *(a)* the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods, *(b)* the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and *(c)* the Food Advisory Committee receive any form of grant from his Department or private companies. [32420]

Mr. Boswell: No members of any of these non-departmental public bodies receive any grants from my Department but they are paid travel and subsistence expenses and daily fees for attendance. Some members receive remuneration from private companies and details of these interests are published in the committees' annual reports, copies of which are deposited in the House of Commons Library.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his department, their purpose and their cost. [32485]

Mr. Boswell: Comprehensive information in the form requested is not readily available.

In common with other Government Departments MAFF does not spend directly with advertising agencies. Any advertising forming part of a publicity campaign is placed via the Central Office of Information. Major advertising campaigns since 1990–91 are:

Rabies Prevention;

Joint Imports (prevention of plant and animal diseases being brought into the UK);

Foodsense (promoting safe and healthy eating);

Animal Health and Welfare Issues;

Balance in the Countryside.

Other smaller campaigns have promoted the various schemes available to farmers.

The value of all forms of advertising commissioned through the COI since 1990–91 is as follows:

1990–91: £107,846
1991–92: £342,896
1992–93: £663,460
1993–94: £637,953
1994–95: £703,928

(All figures are exclusive of VAT).

Farming (New Entrants)

Mr. Tredinnick: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what steps are being taken to help new entrants to farming; and if he will make a statement. [32729]

Mr. Baldry: The quota schemes which currently operate in the beef and sheep sectors include special arrangements which allow new entrants access to quota from the sheep and suckler cow scheme national reserves. Milk quotas pose a special problem; the Department has in the past looked at ways of attempting to assist new entrants but there are fundamental difficulties to be overcome. However, the Government are ready to consider proposals from the dairy industry for an industry-run scheme.

The introduction of farm business tenancies will help to ensure that more land is available for new entrants to rent. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors has estimated that within two years more than 300,000 hectares of extra land will be offered for rent as a result of the flexibility provided by the new arrangements.

An extensive range of courses are available to prospective new entrants through agricultural colleges. New entrants can also take advantage of the extensive range of training courses available through ATB–Landbase and other training providers.

Banks provide general business start up and planning advice that would meet most of the requirements of new entrants for general information. We are also working, through our contact with ATB–Landbase, to raise awareness of skills gaps and deficiencies and the benefits, both to new and established business, of strategic business planning and training. Training and enterprise councils also have a role to play through business start up activities and business links will be an important contact point for new entrants seeking advice on business set up and development matters.

Set-aside Land

Mr. Cox: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the acreage of the largest single holding of land in England and Wales that was in set-aside as of 1 June. [33021]

Mr. Baldry: As we have given an undertaking to claimants under the arable area payments scheme that all information regarding their claim is held in confidence, specific information on single claims cannot be published.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the total acreage of land in England and Wales in set aside as of 1 June. [33014]

Mr. Baldry: The total area of land in set aside in England and Wales at 1 June 1995 is not yet available. I will write to the hon. Member when this information is known.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what are the 10 largest sums paid in set-aside payments since the inception of the scheme; and to whom were they paid. [33117]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* We have given an undertaking to claimants under the arable area payments scheme that all information regarding their claim is held in confidence. Specific information on individual claims cannot, therefore, be published. However, in 1993–94 there were seven claims in excess of £500,000 in 1994–95 there were 15 such claims.

Shareholdings

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33484]

Mr. Boswell: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and its agencies do not hold information centrally about declared company shareholdings. Each declaration is, however, scrutinised carefully to guard against potential conflicts of interest.

Environmental Protection

Ms Quin: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many people were employed in environmental protection in each of the last ten years. [32900]

Mr. Boswell *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* The protection and enhancement of the rural and marine environment is an important aim of the Ministry. It is pursued through a number of programmes and the resources associated with each programme, including administration costs, are given in chapter 3 of the annual report, a copy of which is lodged in the Library of the House. Records are not kept of staff numbers associated with specific aims and programmes.

Fraud

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many serious irregularities in the intervention regimes are currently under investigation in the United Kingdom for each agricultural commodity. [32387]

Mr. Douglas Hogg *[pursuant to the reply 5 July, Official Report, c. 307]:* I am now able to provide the number of serious irregularities in the intervention regimes which are currently under investigation in the United Kingdom. The information is as follows:

Scheme	*Number of cases*
Beef intervention processing	1
Beef intervention purchases	2
Fruit and vegetable withdrawal	1
Surplus food	9
Seed production aid	1
Milk quotas	79
School milk	1
Total	94

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many investigations into intervention fraud in the United Kingdom have taken place in each of the last six years *(a)* for each agricultural commodity and *(b)* in total. [32384]

Mr. Hogg *[pursuant to the reply, 5 July, Official Report, c. 307]:* I am now able to provide the number of completed investigations into intervention fraud in the United Kingdom for each support scheme. The information is as follows:

Scheme	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*
Beef Intervention Purchases	—	—	2	2	2	1	—
Cereals Intervention Purchases	—	1	—	2	—	1	—
Fruit and Veg Withdrawals	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Surplus Food	1	—	1	—	6	20	5
NPO Butter	—	3	—	—	—	1	1
Butter for Manufacture	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Sheep Variable Premium	19	4	22	—	—	—	—
Cereals Corep Levy	4	3	14	15	3	2	—
Beef Special Premium	53	16	15	12	11	1	4
Linseed	1	—	1	2	2	2	—
Peas, Beans and Lupins	1	2	1	—	1	—	—
Milk Supplementary Levy	8	1	1	2	1	9	8
School Milk	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Whisky Refunds	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Conc. Butter for Direct Consumption	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Aid for Dehydrated Fodder	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Liquid Skimmed for Animal Feed	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Starch	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	87	30	38	38	30	42	18

NORTHERN IRELAND

Arms Decommissioning

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the outcome of the talks between the British and Irish Prime Ministers in Cannes, with particular reference to *(a)* decommissioning of arms and *(b)* the terms of remission for prisoners. [32910]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach had a constructive meeting on 27 June. They discussed a whole range of subjects. It was announced after the meeting that the Prime Ministers had commissioned a joint report on the decommissioning of weapons and explosives.

Farm Burglaries

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what was the number of burglaries on farms and farm out-buildings for each of the last 10 years; [33135]

(2) what was the number of cases of livestock theft for each of the last 10 years. [33133]

Sir John Wheeler: The information is as follows:

Offences on Farms in Northern Ireland 1987–1994

	Burglary offences[1]	*Thefts of animals*[2]
1987	105	24
1988	94	92
1989	102	135
1990	128	95
1991	130	84
1992	136	96
1993	130	110
1994	163	119

[1] Includes attempts and going equipped to steal/going equipped for burglary etc.
[2] May include thefts of domestic and wild animals from farms/farm premises as well as thefts of livestock.
Figures are not available before 1987.

Leadhill School

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils were enrolled at Leadhill primary school, Castlereagh in each of the past five years; how many pupils were enrolled in each class this year at Leadhill school; what capital investment there was at this school in each of the past five years; what proposals there are to improve accommodation at the school; and if he will make a statement. [32993]

Mr. Ancram: The information is as follows:

Total pupils enrolled

Year	*Number*
1990	175
1991	172
1992	179
1993	187
1994	201

Enrolment by year group in 1994–95

Year group	*Number*
P1	31
P2	32
P3	33
P4	24
P5	31
P6	26
P7	24

Capital investment

Year	*Amount £*
1990–91	802
1991–92	1,381
1992–93	15,092
1993–94	3,178
1994–95	1,209

The South Eastern education and library board has no proposal at present to improve accommodation at the school but will continue to keep the matter under review.

Security

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consideration he is giving to the removal of *(a)* the security tower at Rosemount in Londonderry and *(b)* vehicle checkpoints near the Donegal border of Northern Ireland as a consequence of the ceasefire. [33043]

Sir John Wheeler: At present the RUC advise that these security installations remain operationally necessary, but the requirements to retain these, and similar structures, is kept under constant review.

University of Ulster

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures, sources of funding and timescales are being followed in consideration of the Springvale campus proposal by the University of Ulster. [33041]

Mr. Ancram: Following the announcement by the University of Ulster of its proposal to establish a campus at Springvale, my right hon. and learned Friend commissioned a full economic appraisal of the scheme. In addition, I commissioned a report from the Northern Ireland Higher Education Council specifically to consider the educational aspects of the proposal. The economic appraisal is nearing completion, and the Secretary of State will wish to give full consideration to its findings, including the costs involved, and to the NIHEC report before taking a decision on the Springvale campus proposal.

Land Bank

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which parts of Northern Ireland currently have inadequate publicly owned land banks to respond to the needs of incoming investors; and what he proposes to do about this. [33045]

Mr. Ancram: The Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland has a land bank of over 1,100 acres, which, is adequate to meet the needs of incoming investors in most cases. Additional land is currently being acquired at Ballycastle, Banbridge, Belfast, Castlereagh, Downpatrick, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Londonderry and Omagh.

Support Programme

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what are the contents of the special support programme for peace and reconciliation which has recently been submitted to the European Commission. [33040]

Sir John Wheeler: The guidelines for the special support programme makes provision for a range of measures under the five priorities of employment, urban and rural regeneration, cross-border development, social inclusion and industrial development/productive investment. It is expected that the programme will mirror this provision. As the submitted draft is still being negotiated between the member states concerned and the European Commission, it is not possible to give definitive details of the content.

Theft (Fields)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the number of cases of theft of produce from fields for each of the least 10 years. [33124]

Sir John Wheeler: Data on theft of produce from fields are not available.

Fish Kills

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fish kills have been reported on Kellswater, County Antrim, in the 12 months ended 30 June; what was the location and cause of each fish kill; on how many occasions prosecutions have taken place in respect of the above fish kills and on how many occasions *(a)* the chief executive of the fisheries Conservancy Board (NI) has recommended no prosecution to the Fisheries Conservancy Board; how many reported incidents of failure to protect fish with special reference to smolts in Northern Ireland, have resulted in *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* no prosecution; and if all reported fish kills are brought to the attention of the Fisheries Conservancy Board (NI) by the chief executive of the Fisheries Conservancy Board. [33269]

Mr. Ancram: In the 12 month period ended 30 June 1995 two reports of fish kills on the Kellswater river, Co Antrim, were received and investigated by the Fisheries Conservancy Board.

The first fish kill occurred between Wiggleton weir and Shankbridge. No discharge was detected at the time of investigation. However, the source is believed to be an industrial discharge, coupled with unusually high water temperatures and low oxygen levels in the river.

The second fish kill occurred below Shankbridge and is under investigation. In the first case the chief executive did not pursue prosecutions due to insufficient evidence. Statutory water samples have been taken in the second case with a view to prosecution. Prosecutions are recommended in those cases where water samples have been taken and the analysis supports prosecution.

During the last year the Fisheries Conservancy Board issued 29 warning letters for failures by persons or organisations to protect fish with special reference to smolts in Northern Ireland under the provisions of section 659 of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966. Of these 15 have applied for or have been granted an exemption by the Department of Agriculture from the requirements of section 59 of the Act, four are now complying with the Act, four are being considered for prosecution, three are still within the three-month warning period during which they must take action to comply and three are under further investigation.

The board has records of a further five cases where files have been prepared for prosecution. One of these cases has been successfully prosecuted, two have subsequently complied with the Act and two are awaiting prosecution.

The chief executive of the Fisheries Conservancy Board advises the board of all fish kills and resulting action from investigations.

Specialist Cardiologists

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is his latest estimate of specialist cardiologists in post in the NHS in Northern Ireland; and if he will provide figures for each of the previous five years. [33331]

Mr. Moss: The information at 30 September of each year is as follows:

Year	*Number*
1994[1]	18
1993	17
1991	16
1992	15
1990	14
1989	14

[1] Latest dates for which figures are available centrally.

Cardiac Mortality

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the cardiac mortality rate for each year since 1989 giving the figures for each health authority area in Northern Ireland. [33332]

Mr. Moss: The mortality rate per 1,000 population was as follows:

	1989	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*[1]
Eastern Health and Social Services Board	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.1
Northern Health and Social Services Board	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.9
Southern Health and Social Services Board	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Western Health and Social Services Board	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.7

[1] 1994 figures are provisional.

Consultancies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33889]

Sir John Wheeler: Details of firms awarded information technology consultancy contracts and the number of contracts awarded to each firm are as follows:

Company	Number of contracts
ACT Ltd.	1
Advanced Recognition Ltd.	1
Advec	4
Aims Ireland	6
Barnes McCrum	1
BB Consultancy	2
Belmin	2
BIC Systems	3
Binder Hamlyn	1
BIS Beecom	6
Blackhall Medical Centre	1
Business Objects	3
Cambridge Consultants	1
CAMS	1
Capita Muir and Addy	7
Caspe	1
CCTA	27
CEM Computers Ltd.	2
Centre for Social Research QUB	2
CFM	13
Common Services Agency	1
Computer Association	1
Consulting International	1
Coopers Lybrand and Deloitte	63
CSL	2
D. Vincent	1
Daicomp Services	1
Data General	8
Datapro International	1
DBI Associates	14
Defence Research Agency	1
Delta Performance Systems	1
Digital	9
DMW Group Ltd.	2
Dr. Campbell	1
Dr. Farrington	2
Dr. P. Berrey	1
Dr. Port	1
Economic and Social Research Council	1
Elite	5
Employment Service	1
Ernst and Young	1
European Services (Printing)	1
European S/W	1
Geoffrey Moss	1
Goldarrow	1
Hanna Thompson	1
Hedley Computer Consultants	1
Helm	5
Hewlett Packard	2
HM Paymaster General	1
Horizon Services Ltd.	2
Hoskyns	2
IBM	1
ICL	4
ICS	4
Insight Consulting	5
Intersystems	1
ITSA	5
ITSS	1
Justaim Ltd.	3
Kainos Software Ltd.	1
Kinesis	1
Knowledge Insight Ltd.	1
KPMG	5
Logica	1
Logical Choice	1
Logicom	1
Logotech	1
London Business School	1
Lorien Computers	1
Maygrove Consultancy	1
McDonnell Douglas	4
MDISL	1
Miss M. Burns	1
Morris/Shaw	1
Mott McDonald	3
Naylor and Devlin	1
NCC	2
NIRRL QUB	1
Oracle	12
PA Consulting	3
PACE	6
Page Design	1
Park Applications	1
Park Place Training	1
Peter Henderson	1
PI UK Ltd.	1
Pixel Innovations	1
Portfolio Systems	1
Price Waterhouse	3
QMI	1
Rely Business Software	1
RMS Services Ltd.	1
Ruth McAllister	2
School of Psychology QUB	1
Scoll	3
Secure Information Systems Ltd.	1
SEMA	1
Sequel Technology	1
Sequelogic	1
Sequent	1
SIA Ltd.	1
Siemens Nixdorf	2
Silicon Bridge Research	1
Softlab Ireland	2
Software Ireland	1
Solcom	1
Spectrum	1
Sybex	1
Synoptics	2
Syntech	1
System Source Ltd.	2
Technical Resource Consultants	1
Touche Ross	19
Ulster University Jordanstown	1
Unidata	1
Unidirect	1
Wellington Group System	4
WS Atkins	1
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Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33877]

Sir John Wheeler: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33857]

Sir John Wheeler: The total amount paid to consultants for information technology is as follows:

1990–91: £1,690,000
1991–92: £1,300,982
1992–93: £1,100,867
1993–94: £520,892
1994–95: £1,151,501

Details of expenditure over the next five years is not available.

Investigators

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the revised statutory code of practice in respect of authorised investigators to come into operation. [34491]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: I have today laid before Parliament a revised draft code of practice in connection with the exercise by authorised investigators of the powers conferred by schedule 5 of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1991, as I am required to do by paragraph 7(3) of that schedule. I intend also to make an order which will bring the code into operation on 1 August 1995. The revised code was published for consultation on 3 April 1995 and takes account of a change to the 1991 Act which relaxes the law by permitting authorised investigators to obtain information in writing rather than requiring individuals to attend for interview and produce documents.

The draft code provides guidance to authorised investigators on how they should exercise their powers and contains a number of valuable safeguards for those who may be interviewed by them.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Metric Measures

9. **Sir Michael Neubert:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade what recent representations he has received on the subject of compulsory metric measures. [32125]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: I have received a number of letters about recent press coverage of the compulsory use of metric units for certain products from 1 October 1995.

Beer

19. **Mr. Galloway:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade what further representations he has had from the Campaign for Real Ale about consumers having to pay for the frothy head on beer. [32139]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: I have received no further representations from the Campaign for Real Ale.

Oil Installations (Recycling)

20. **Mr. Macdonald:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade what support he intends to give to British yards bidding for work recycling redundant oil installations from the North sea. [32140]

Mr. Eggar: My oil and gas projects and supplies office is already helping UK industry to compete for this type of work.

Post Offices

21. **Mr. McFall:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proposals he has to maintain a nationwide network of post offices. [32142]

Mr. Lang: The Government are committed to the improvement of the network's commercial prospects by the introduction of technology and by allowing Post Office Counters Ltd. greater freedom to take on new clients.

29. **Mr. Rooker:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the future of Crown post offices. [32150]

Mr. Lang: I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Mr. Michie) earlier today.

Manufacturing Output

22. **Mr. Eastham:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the current figures for manufacturing output. [32143]

Mr. Lang: Manufacturing output rose by 2.6 per cent. in the 12 months to May.

27. **Mr. Hutton:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the current figures for manufacturing output. [32148]

Mr. Lang: I refer the hon. Member to the earlier answer I gave to the hon. Member for Manchester, Blackley (Mr. Eastham).

Gas Supply (Kent)

23. **Mr. Jacques Arnold:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment he has made of the potential effect on domestic consumers of the introduction of competition into gas supply in Kent. [32144]

Mr. Eggar: Competition in domestic gas supply is expected to lead to generally lower gas bills. British Gas competitors anticipate average price reductions of around 10 per cent. It will allow customers to choose the mix of price and service that best meets their particular requirements.

Unethical Sales Practices

24. **Dr. Goodson-Wickes:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade what consultations he has had with London trading standards about unethical sales practices. [32145]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: In December 1994, my Department issued a consultation document to trading standards departments and others on the powers of the Director General of Fair Trading to act against traders whose practices are unfair to consumers. A number of

responses have been received from London boroughs' trading standards departments.

Over-regulation

25. **Mrs. Gorman:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he has to urge other EU states to relieve small and medium enterprises of the burden of over-regulation. [32146]

Mr. Page: Increasingly, other member states of the European Union are recognising the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises for job creation, and of their particular sensitivity to poor regulation. This is reflected in the Cannes European Council's conclusions, and also in the work of the Commission's small firms directorate on disseminating best regulatory practice for small business. I believe that member states can benefit from our "think small first" approach to new legislation and our small firms litmus test. We are working closely on this with other member states.

Privatised Utilities

26. **Mr. Keith Hill:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the estimated value, potential value and past profit of privatised utilities, directors and senior executives' share option schemes. [32147]

Mr. Eggar: The details of share options schemes and the value of awards made under the schemes are matters for the companies concerned.

28. **Mr. Hoon:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the change in the pay of the executives of privatised utilities since privatisation. [32149]

Mr. Eggar: Pay in the private sector is a matter for the companies concerned and for their shareholders.

31. **Mr. Robert Ainsworth**: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he has to review the current system of regulations of the privatised utilities. [32152]

Mr. Eggar: The ways in which the systems of regulation of the privatised utilities develop is a matter of continuing interest, and the regulators and the Government always welcome practical suggestion for improvements to the current system.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the current salary of the Director General of Telecommunications; and what has been the salary for this post since 1990. [33550]

Mr. Ian Taylor: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 26 June 1995, *Official Report*, columns *448–50* by my right hon. Friend the Member for Enfield, North (Mr. Eggar) to the hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain).

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the current salary of the Director General of Electricity Supply; and what has been the salary for this post for each year since 1990. [33549]

Mr. Eggar: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain), whose similar question was answered on 26 June 1995, *Official Report*, columns *448–50.*

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what are the criteria used to determine the salaries of director generals of electricity supply, gas supply and telecommunications. [33551]

Mr. Eggar: The remuneration of the director generals of electricity supply, of gas supply and of telecommunications is determined by the Secretary of State, with the approval of the Minister with responsibility for the civil service, and salaries are set at the rate necessary to recruit and retain the best candidates.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the current salary of the Director General of Gas Supply; and what has been the salary of this post since 1990. [33557]

Mr. Eggar: Details of the current salary of the Director General of Gas Supply and the salary of this post since 1990, were given to the hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain) on 26 June 1995, *Official Report*, columns *448–50.*

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on employment prospects in the utilities. [32190]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* Employment prospects in the utilities are subject to the commercial judgment of their management and the needs of their customers.

Exports

30. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the trend in United Kingdom exports. [32151]

Mr. Nelson: The outlook for exports in 1995 is excellent. In the three months to April, the volume of United Kingdom exports, excluding oil and erratics was 9.5 per cent. higher than a year earlier. The CBI reports that export order books are growing faster than ever before and that optimism among exporters is at its highest for a generation.

Inward Investment

32. **Mr. Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on inward investment. [32153]

Mr. Eggar: Inward investment is a UK success story. I announced only last week that in 1994–95, a record number of 434 inward investment decisions were notified to the Invest in Britain Bureau, expecting to create nearly 37,000 new jobs. Almost 57 per cent of these decisions were by foreign investors already established here, a tremendous vote of confidence in the strength of the UK economy.

Firework Injuries

33. **Mr. Kevin Hughes:** To ask the President of the Board of Trade what steps he is taking to reduce the number of firework injuries. [32154]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Legislation is in place to control the supply of unsafe fireworks and to prohibit the supply of fireworks to persons under 16 years of age.

To complement these measures, an annual firework campaign is undertaken to inform retailers and users of the necessary precautions to be taken when fireworks are supplied and used. The 1995 firework campaign will concentrate upon the age group nine to 13 years and garden firework parties which were associated with most of the firework accidents in 1994.

Nuclear Industry

Mr. Frank Cook: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans the Government have to remove non-leviable status from the nuclear industry once it is privatised; and in what way they will then seek to recognise the benefits of pure renewable forms of energy. [32639]

Mr. Eggar: The Government are considering the future of non-leviable status, and expect to announce their conclusions before the privatisation of the nuclear generating stations.

Pallion Engineering Ltd.

Mr. Etherington: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what representations his departmental officials including regional officials have received from Appledore, Devon regarding Pallion Engineering Ltd., Sunderland. [33765]

Mr. Eggar: My officials have not received any representations from Appledore Ltd. about Pallion Engineering Ltd. of Sunderland.

Mr. Etherington: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) when he last discussed the future of Pallion Engineering Ltd. with the European Commissioner responsible for competition; [33763]

(2) when his Department's officials last met representatives of the European Commissioner responsible for competition to discuss Pallion Engineering Ltd., Sunderland. [33762]

Mr. Eggar: My right hon. Friend the then Minister for Industry, corresponded with the European Commissioner responsible for competition about the future of Pallion Engineering in July 1994. A number of meetings have taken place since then between officials of my Department and those of the Directorate General for Competition to discuss the shipbuilding industry generally and those officials discussed Pallion most recently by telephone on 4 July 1995.

Mr. Etherington: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many representations he has received regarding Pallion Engineering Ltd., Sunderland; and if he will make a statement. [33764]

Mr. Eggar: Ministers and officials have received approximately 15 representations about Pallion Engineering since July 1994. I have agreed to meet a delegation of hon. Members to discuss the constraints imposed on Pallion Engineering by the European Community's seventh shipbuilding directive.

European Commissioner (Competition)

Mr. Etherington: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when he will next meet the European Commissioner responsible for competition; and what matters will be discussed. [33766]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: My right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade meets the European Commissioner responsible for competition from time to time but has no specific plans to do so in the immediate future.

Mr. Etherington: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when he last met the European Commissioner responsible for competition; and what matters were discussed. [33767]

Mr. Evans: My right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade last met the European Commissioner responsible for competition on Monday 3 April 1995. Their discussions covered state aids issues and the liberalisation and privatisation of the energy and telecoms sectors.

Directory Inquiry Services

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what discussions he has had with the Director General of Telecommunications, as to standards of directory inquiry services; and if he will make a statement. [32457]

Mr. Ian Taylor: None. The standard of directory inquiry services is a matter for the Director General of Telecommunications. I invite my hon. Friend to inform the director or myself of any specific concerns.

Biodiesel

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the total amount of biodiesel *(a)* imported into the United Kingdom and *(b)* produced in the United Kingdom last year. [32717]

Mr. Nelson: A small amount of biodiesel was produced in the UK last year for trial purposes only. Exact quantities produced and import figures are not available.

Asbestos

Mr. McCartney: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the quantities of asbestos imported into the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [32864]

Mr. Nelson: The information is published by the Central Statistical Office in the overseas trade statistics of the United Kingdom, which is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many asbestos slates have been imported into the United Kingdom in each of the last five years; what was their cost; and what is the cost of their United Kingdom—made substitutes. [32865]

Mr. Nelson: The information is not available.

Jaguar

Mr. Mills: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what progress has been made in establishing support for the location of Jaguar's new model investment in the midlands; and if he will make a statement. [33625]

Mr. Eggar: DTI Ministers and officials have been working very closely with Ford and Jaguar to maximise the prospects of Jaguar's new X200 saloon car being built in the west midlands. The DTI, in association with English Partnerships and local agencies, working through the Government offices in the west midlands, is putting together a substantial package of support, including site improvements and training.

Company Inspections

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when inspectors were appointed in relation to *(a)* Pennine Commercial Holdings plc, *(b)* British Anzani plc and *(c)* International Signal and Control Group plc; and if he will list in each case the reasons for the appointment of inspectors, the names of the inspectors and their business connections, the cost of the investigation together with details of the way in which it has been disbursed to each inspector, including the basis of disbursement, the number of hours for which each inspector has billed his Department, including the hourly rate, the date of completion and publication of the report and the action taken by the Department against the parties criticised in the report, the parties who have seen the report and under what section and statute. [33923]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Elizabeth Appleby QC and Peter Wilfred Foss FCA, a partner of Moores Rowland, were appointed inspectors of Pennine Commercial Holdings plc on 4 October 1983 and also of British Anzani plc on 11 March 1983—a related investigation.—both appointments being under the provisions of section 165(1)(b) of the Companies Act 1948—now section 432 of the Companies Act 1985—following concern over a number of matters and in particular the conduct of certain of its directors. They completed their report on British Anzani plc on 28 November 1986. The inspectors are reviewing their interim report on Pennine Commercial Holdings plc with a view to submitting a final report, following the conclusion in April 1995 of appeals against criminal convictios. When the inspectors have submitted their completed report on Pennine Commercial Holdings, publication of the reports will be considered. The cost of the inspection of British Anzani plc and related investigations to date, excluding Pennine Commercial Holdings, is £745,600. The cost of the investigation of Pennine Commercial Holdings plc to date is £391,000 of which £355,00 and £36,000, respectively, relate to the accountant and legal inspector. The hours billed and the hourly rate are confidential. Appropriate disclosure has been made within the criminal proceedings and to regulatory bodies.

Inspectors have not been appointed to International Signal and Control Group plc.

Copyright Law

Mr. Sims: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he has to introduce legislation to incorporate a transmission right into the existing copyright law. [33307]

Mr. Ian Taylor: United Kingdom legislation—the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988—already provides copyright owners with exclusive rights to prohibit or to authorise transmission of their works. Broadcasting of copyright material and its inclusion in a cable programme service, which covers digital on-line services, both require authorisation of the copyright owner.

My Department has established close links with industry on issues which may be affected by advances in information and communication technology, including copyright. A sub-committee of my multi-media industry advisory group is considering these matters at present. We are keeping matters under review, not only in the United Kingdom, but, since transmissions cross territorial boundaries, within the European Union and other international forums.

Mr. David Porter: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what assessment he has made on the impact on mass market sales of classic paperback reprints of European Union proposals to harmonise copyright laws; and if he will make a statement; [33007]

(2) What assessment he has made on the impact on British printers of European Union proposals to harmonise copyright laws; and if he will make a statement. [33008]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* Effects on the sale of paperback reprints may arise from directive 93/98/EEC, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers in October 1993. This requires that copyright should expire 70 years after the death of the author and will mean that the duration of copyright in the United Kingdom will have to be increased from its present duration of 50 years, to 70 years after death, and that certain works on which copyright has ceased will have their copyright revived for up to 20 years. However, the directive provides that publication of works prior to revival of copyright will not be regarded as infringement, and enables member states to introduce safeguards to protect those who are in the process of publishing works on the assumption that they are in the public domain.

My Department has recently circulated a consultative draft of legislation to implement the directive. This draft proposes extensive safeguards which, for example, will allow publishers to make and to sell copies made as a result of commitments entered into before 1 January 1995, and to sell any copy made before 1 July 1995, without liability to owners of revived rights. Furthermore, the draft legislation proposes that any publisher who wishes to make a new edition—that is, one which is not covered by the safeguards mentioned above—will be able to do so, and that this cannot be prevented by the owner of revived rights.

I understand that royalty rates for paperback editions are generally around 7 per cent. of the publishers' selling price to the trade. Given the safeguards we propose to introduce, the effects of implementing this directive on the market for classic books would not appear to be substantial, especially since the directive will be of practical significance to only a relatively small number of books,—that is, those which remain popular more than 50 years after their authors' deaths. Classics whose authors have been dead for more than 70 years will not be affected.

As part of the consultation exercise, views as to costs or benefits of the directive have been sought from businesses and others directly affected. A compliance cost assessment will be produced in due course.

The effect of this directive on the United Kingdom printing industry can be expected to be marginal since there is no reason to believe that the directive will affect overall activity in the industry.

Export Credits Guarantee Advisory Service

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will update the list of members of the Export Credits Guarantee Advisory Service given in his answer of 20 January 1994, *Official Report*, columns *748–50*, indicating the reason for any departure of members. [33163]

Mr. Nelson: Since 20 January 1994, two members have left the Export Guarantees Advisory Council—Mr. Gormly retired at the end of his term of office and Mr. Smallwood resigned due to business commitments. No new members have been appointed.

Telecommunications Companies

Mr. Spellar: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what progress has been made in obtaining access for British telecommunications companies in the United States market. [32817]

Mr. Ian Taylor: There has been improvement in the access of UK companies to the United States market, particularly since international simple resale of telecommunications between the UK and the US was authorised in October 1994. My Department has now licensed 33 companies to provide ISR to the US, as well as to Australia, Canada and Sweden.

The Government have been following closely the regulatory and legislative proposals currently being considered in the US on foreign ownership and access to the US market, with a view to improving UK companies' position in the US. We have also urged US officials to avoid any measures which may cause difficulty with a successful outcome of the World Trade Organisation negotiations on basic telecommunications, due to end in April 1996.

Ceramics and Porcelain Quotas

Ms Walley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what was his policy in respect of the proposal to abolish quotas for the importation of tableware and ornamentalware at the 113 Committee of the European Commission and Council of Ministers; and if he will make a statement; [33225]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on employment in north Staffordshire of abolishing tableware and ornamentalware quotas. [33239]

Mr. Eggar: The European Commission is reviewing the quotas on all non-textile imports from China, including ceramics and porcelain, and will report to the Council of Ministers later in the year. The Government consider that protection should continue only if clear economic justification can be shown. Evidence from the UK ceramics industry, including on employment aspects, will be among the factors considered in establishing the Government's response.

Buses

Mr. Spellar: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many buses were produced in the United Kingdom in 1994; and how many buses were imported and exported. [32813]

Mr. Nelson: The available information is set out in the table. Care is required in interpreting these figures as production and trade are recorded under different classifications; in particular, the treatment of minibuses may differ between the two.

UK production, imports and exports of buses in 1994

	Number
Production[1]	1,585
Imports[2]	1,005
Exports[2]	785

[1] Production of buses and coaches (excluding mini-buses).—Source: Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

[2] Trade in (new) motor vehicles for the transport of ten or more persons—Source: HM Customs and Excise.

Manufacturers (Imports and Exports)

Mr. Spellar: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the value of imports and exports of manufactures in each of the main manufacturing countries in 1994. [32827]

Mr. Nelson: The available information is given in the table.

Main manufacturing countries trade in manufactures[1]—1994

US $ Billion

	Exports	*Imports*
Belgium/Luxembourg	n/a	n/a
Canada[2]	119	129
France	203	191
Germany	377	281
Italy	170	112
Japan[2]	389	152
Netherlands	102	102
Sweden	n/a	n/a
Switzerland	n/a	n/a
UK	170	185
USA	381	552

Notes:

[1] Standard International Trade Classification Section 5 to 8.

[2] Includes Standard International Trade Classification Section 9—Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC.

n/a= not readily available.

Source:

OECD Series A.

Eurostat Intra & Extra EU Trade.

CSO Business Monitor MM20A.

US Dept of Commerce—US Merchandise Trade December 1994.

Coal Authority

Ms Walley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the individual plots of land currently owned by the Coal Authority in the Stoke on Trent, North constituency. [32709]

Mr. Page: This is a matter for the Coal Authority. I have asked the authority to write to the hon. Member.

Competitiveness

Mr. Waterson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what representations he has received about his latest White Paper on competitiveness. [32141]

Mr. Lang: I refer my hon. Friend to the oral answer that I gave the hon. Member for Colchester, North (Mr. Jenkin) earlier this afternoon.

Iraq (Arms)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the answer to the hon. Member for Redcar (Ms Quin) from the then Minister for Trade, the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood), on export licensing of 13 November 1989, *Official Report*, column *1*. [32969]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* The matters referred to in the question by the hon. Member for Wokingham, answered on 13 November 1989, are under investigation by the Scott inquiry. It would be inappropriate for me to comment before Sir Richard has completed his report.

Royal Ordnance (Exports)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list all exports of munitions by Royal Ordnance since 1980 to *(a)* Singapore Technologies and *(b)* Chartered Chemical Industries plc. [32890]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* This question could be answered only at disproportionate cost. Following the recent statement on BMARC by my right hon. Friend the then President of the Board of Trade, 13 June, Official Report, column 595, and the subsequent decision of the Trade and Industry Select Committee to undertake an inquiry into this area, Departments are now carrying out research into some associated areas in relation to defence exports to Singapore. I shall consider what information it might be appropriate to disclose, and which might be relevant to the Select Committee's inquiry, after that research work has been completed.

Mr. Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the export licences *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted to Allivane for military equipment and materials destined for Singapore Technologies since 1980. [33058]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today in response to his questions on exports by Royal Ordnance.

Mr. Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the export licences *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted to Royal Ordnance for military equipment and materials destined for Chartered Chemical Industries Pte Ltd. of Singapore, since 1980. [33026]

Mr. Nelson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today on this issue.

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade for what purpose staff from BNFL were seconded to his Department. [33278]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The staff on secondment to the Department of BNFL are filling posts that have been identified as benefiting from their particular skills and experience. They are part of the continuing programme of interchange of staff between the Department and industry.

BMARC

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to his answer of 28 June, *Official Report*, column *671*, on what date in April information was first sent to HM Customs and Excise, and on what date in June the final information was sent concerning BMARC export licences. [32527]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* I am afraid that the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Technology on 28 June should have read early April, rather than late April. The first occasion this year on which my Department provided information to HM Customs in connection with BMARC was on or soon after 3 April. The first occasion prior to the statement by my right hon. Friend the former President of the Board of Trade was on 7 June.

Export Promotion Advice

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the export promotion advice for small service businesses and the appropriate level of charges for this advice, and if he will make a statement. [33274]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The effectiveness of export promotion advice for all companies, including small service sector firms, is currently measured through data collected on companies' satisfaction with the services and information provided.

These services are currently either free or charged at a heavily subsidised price. Charging has not deterred the serious exporter as is evidenced by the continuing growth in the use of the charged services.

SCOTLAND

Forestry

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many times Government grants have been awarded to private forestry firms over the past five years; and what was the total value for each year. [30441]

Mr. Kynoch: Some 24,000 woodland grant scheme applications were approved in Great Britain in the five years to 31 March 1995, of which about one-quarter were from companies; private forestry companies are not recorded separately.

Total payments under the woodland grant scheme, and other Forestry Commission grant schemes which are now closed, were as follows:

Year ended 31 March	*Payments (£ million)*
1991	16.5
1992	17.2
1993	21.8
1994	29.8
1995	32.8

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the name of the principal recipients of Government grants for private forest schemes in Scotland over the past five years. [30443]

Mr. Kynoch: The Forestry Commission has no management reason to keep a record of cumulative payments made to each owner. To provide the information requested would require a manual search through a very large number of individual grant scheme files. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what are the criteria for Government grants being awarded to private forestry, and what restrictions there are on foreign-owned forestry in Scotland. [30445]

Mr. Kynoch: Applications for grant aid have to satisfy the aims of the woodland grant scheme and meet the silvicultural and environmental standards set out in guidelines published by the Forestry Commission. There are no restrictions on nationality; applicants must be the legal occupiers of the land.

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many jobs he estimates have been created by privately owned forestry in Scotland over the past five years. [30442]

Mr. Kynoch: The Forestry Commission carried out a sample survey of forestry employment in 1988–89. The results were published in the Commission's Occasional Paper 27, a copy of which is in the Library. The Commission carried out another sample survey in 1993–94, and it is currently analysing the results of this. I shall send the hon. Member a copy of the survey report when it is published, and I shall also place a copy in the Library.

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many hectares of *(a)* new native pinewoods and *(b)* new broadleaved woods were grant aided in (i) Scotland and (ii) Argyll and Bute for 1994–95 [30444]

Mr. Kynoch: The information is as follows:

	Area of new planting (hectares)	
	Scotland	*Argyle and Bute*
Native pinewoods (including associated broadleaves)	2,400	60
Broadleaved woods (excluding broadleaves in native pinewoods)	3,900	160

Rabies

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many cases of rabies there were in each year since 1967. [32289]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: There have been no cases of rabies recorded in Scotland in the years in question.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy occurred in each year since 1985. [32373]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The number of confirmed cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Scotland is as follows:

1986: 0
1987: 7
1988: 54
1989: 208
1990: 486
1991: 808
1992: 1,850
1993: 2,208
1994: 1,324
1995[1]: 253

[1] To 30 June.

BSE was first identified in November 1986 and information on the incidence of the disease prior to that date is not available.

Animal Diseases

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Soctland how many cases of peste des petits ruminants occurred in each year since 1985. [32286]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: There have been no cases of peste des petits ruminants in Scotland since 1985.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many cases of contagious equine metritis occurred in each year since 1985. [32304]

Mr. Robertson: There has been only one case of contagious equine metritis recorded in Scotland since 1985. This occurred in 1990.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will show, by type, the number of cases of fowl pest in each year since 1985. [3 292]

Mr. Robertson: No cases of fowl pest—avian influenza or Newcastle disease—have been reported in Scotland since 1985.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many cases of epizootic haemorrhagic virus disease occurred in each year since 1985. [32283]

Mr. Robertson: No cases of epizootic haemorrhagic virus disease have been recorded in Scotland since 1985.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many cases of African horse sickness occurred in each year since 1985. [32301]

Mr. Robertson: African horse sickness has never been reported in Scotland.

A74

Mr. Maxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if the Government has changed the penalties to be applied for failing to meet contractual obligations on the contract to upgrade the A74 between Eaglesfield and Kirkpatrick Fleming to motorway standard. [32713]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The application of liquidated damages, which are not penalties, are being applied strictly in accordance with their purpose in the contract.

The liquidated damages provisions relate to two parts of the works. Those provisions related to the southern section, which can be open to traffic as and when it is ready, remain unchanged. Those related to the northern section, which cannot be open to traffic until the adjacent contract is complete, are now no longer relevant. Their purpose was to cover the Secretary of State against any claim by the adjacent contractor for delay in handing over the northern section which is necessary to provide access for him to construct his adjacent section. The adjacent contractor has now waived all such claims against the Secretary of State as he is now acting as sub-contractor to Castelli-Girola for the northern section. Consequently, there is now no justification for the application of liquidation damages against Castelli-Girola by the Secretary of State for the northern section.

Mr. Maxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the progress of the project to upgrade the A74 between Eaglesfield and Kirkpatrick Fleming to motorway standard; and what penalties have been applied to Castelli-Girola for failing to meet their contractual obligations on this project. [32712]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The southern section of the works that should have been open to traffic at the end of last year has now been granted a partial substantial completion certificate and is open to traffic. This section of the works is subject to the deduction of liquidated damages for failure to deliver the road in due time. The extent of the damages will be determined by the contract and will be subject to any contractually agreed extensions of time.

Mr. Maxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what are the costs to public funds of the delays in the work to upgrade the A74 between Eaglesfield and Kirkpatrick to motorway standard. [32714]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The delays in completing the upgrade of the A74 Eaglesfield to Kirkpatrick Fleming section to motorway standard has not caused any additional public expenditure; nor have public funds suffered any loss.

Citylink Development

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on public funds provided to Citylink Developments since 1980; and if he will list the conditions attached to such funding. [32855]

Mr. Kynoch: Citylink Developments received assistance from the Scottish Development Agency. The provision of that assistance is now an operational matter for Scottish Enterprise. I have asked the chairman of Scottish Enterprise to write to the hon. Member.

Constituency Boundaries

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to his answer of 22 November, *Official Report*, columns *112–13*, if he is now in a position to list the names for the 72 Scottish parliamentary constituencies as proposed by the boundary commission and the names of the new local authority areas which each constituency will be part of from April 1996. [33705]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information is as follows:

Proposed constituency	*Comprising part of new local authority from April 1996*
Aberdeen Central	City of Aberdeen
Aberdeen North	City of Aberdeen
Aberdeen South	City of Aberdeen
Airdrie and Shotts	North Lanarkshire
Angus	Angus/City of Dundee/Perthshire and Kinross
Argyll and Bute	Argyll and Bute
Ayr	South Ayrshire
Banff and Buchan	Aberdeenshire
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	Highland
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	East Ayrshire/South Ayrshire
Central Fife	Fife
Clydebank and Milngavie	Dumbarton and Clydebank/East Dumbartonshire
Clydesdale	South Lanarkshire
Coatbridge and Chryston	East Dumbartonshire/North Lanarkshire
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	North Lanarkshire
Cunninghame North	North Ayrshire
Cunninghame South	North Ayrshire
Dumbarton	Argyll and Bute/Dumbarton and Clydebank
Dumfries	Dumfries and Galloway
Dundee East	City of Dundee
Dundee West	City of Dundee
Dunfermline East	Fife
Dunfermline West	Fife
East Kilbride	South Lanarkshire
East Lothian	East Lothian
Eastwood	East Renfrewshire
Edinburgh Central	City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh	East Lothian/City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh North and Leith	City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh Pentlands	City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh South	City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh West	City of Edinburgh
Falkirk East	Falkirk
Falkirk West	Falkirk
Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway
Glasgow Anniesland	City of Glasgow
Glasgow Baillieston	City of Glasgow
Glasgow Cathcart	City of Glasgow
Glasgow Govan	City of Glasgow
Glasgow Kelvin	City of Glasgow
Glasgow Maryhill	City of Glasgow
Glasgow Pollok	City of Glasgow
Glasgow Rutherglen	City of Glasgow/South Lanarkshire
Glasgow Shettleston	City of Glasgow
Glasgow Springburn	City of Glasgow
Gordon	Aberdeenshire/Moray
Greenock and Inverclyde	Inverclyde
Hamilton North and Bellshill	North Lanarkshire/South Lanarkshire
Hamilton South	South Lanarkshire
Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber	Highland

Proposed constituency	*Comprising part of new local authority from April 1996*
Kilmarnock and Loudon	East Ayrshire
Kirkcaldy	Fife
Linlithgow	West Lothian
Livingston	West Lothian
Midlothian	Midlothian
Moray	Moray
Motherwell and Wishaw	North Lanarkshire
North East Fife	Fife
North Tayside	Angus/Perthshire and Kinross
Ochil	Clackmannanshire/Perthshire and Kinross/Stirling
Orkney and Shetland	Orkney Islands/Shetland Islands
Paisley North	Renfrewshire
Paisley South	Renfrewshire
Perth	Perthshire and Kinross
Ross, Skye and Inverness West	Highland
Roxburgh and Berwickshire	The Scottish Borders
Stirling	Stirling
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	East Dunbartonshire
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	Midlothian/The Scottish Borders
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	Aberdeenshire
Western Isles	Western Isles
West Renfrewshire	Inverclyde/Renfrewshire

Cardiac Mortality

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the cardiac mortality rate for each year since 1989; and if he will provide a breakdown by health authority area in Scotland. [33327]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information requested is given in the table.

Death rates for heart disease[1] per 100,000 population for each health board area, 1989–94

	1989	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994[2]*
Scotland	416	390	385	380	391	349
Health Board Areas						
Argyll and Clyde	421	393	400	401	414	356
Ayrshire and Arran	419	438	398	396	428	386
Borders	474	421	444	412	391	372
Dumfries and Galloway	489	459	419	427	420	403
Fife	414	393	403	386	381	358
Forth Valley	394	361	358	383	359	331
Grampian	370	342	320	325	339	301
Greater Glasgow	455	414	416	399	421	376
Highland	399	382	353	364	355	325
Lanarkshire	392	355	371	367	375	350
Lothian	376	356	363	345	351	307
Orkney	461	567	399	462	420	363
Shetland	410	339	324	283	420	319
Tayside	453	432	419	427	452	376
Western Isles	553	500	510	419	486	423

[1] World Health Organisation International Classification of Diseases (Ninth Revision) codes 390–429.
[2] Provisional.

Home Office Road Traffic Forms

Ms Roseanna Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the number of forms HORT-1 issued for the years *(a)* 1993 and *(b)* 1994; and if he will provide a breakdown by individual police force in Scotland. [33369]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: This information is not available.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33873]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: The information requested is currently not held centrally and is therefore not available. Steps are, however, being taken to establish a central record of such information.

Cupar Sheriff Court

Mr. Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary for Scotland (1) what sums have been spent in maintenance and refurbishment of Cupar sheriff court in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; [32661]

(2) when a review was last carried out of the existing facilities at Cupar sheriff court; and what proposals there are for upgrading them. [32662]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* The subject of the question relates to matters undertaken by the Scottish court service. I have asked its chief executive, Michael Ewart, to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Michael Ewart to Mr. Menzies Campbell, dated 12 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Scotland has asked me to reply to your questions about how much was spent in the last 10 years on maintenance and refurbishment at Cupar Sheriff Court; when a review was last carried out of the facilities there; and what proposals there are for upgrading them.

Responsibility for arranging maintenance and refurbishment of courthouses prior to 1 April 1992 lay with the Property Services Agency and I regret that we do not have detailed expenditure figures readily available before that date. However, expenditure at Cupar since then was as follows:

1992–93: £15,000

1993–94: £4,000

1994–95: £20,000

The facilities at all Courthouses are constantly kept under review. Projects are initiated to solve particular problems as resources allow. We recently improved the prisoner interview and toilet facilities at Cupar to assist the local police and we do not have further major plans to develop the facilities at Cupar at this stage.

Court Services Salaries

Mr. Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what are the current salaries of *(a)* sheriffs, *(b)* sheriffs principal, *(c)* senators of the College of Justice, *(d)* the Lord Justice General and Lord President of the Court of Session and *(e)* the Lord Justice Clerk. [32666]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* The current annual salaries are *(a)* £72,524, *(b)* £85,241, *(c)* £98,957 (outer house) and £110,137 (inner house), *(d)* £114,874 and *(e)* £114,137.

Farming Employment

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people were employed in Scottish farming in each of the years 1990–91, 1991–92, 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33539]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* The figures requested are set out in the table.

Year	*Number employed in Scottish farming*
1990	62,650
1991	61,061
1992	60,146
1993	58,778
1994	59,942

The figures are obtained from the annual June agricultural census and relate to main holdings. The numbers include total regular staff full and part-time, casual staff, occupiers working on farms and occupiers' spouses also working on farms. Figures for 1995 are not yet available.

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many fatalities there have been among those employed in Scottish farming in each of the years 1990–91, 1991–92, 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95; [33541]

(2) how many people employed in Scottish farming have been injured in each of the years 1990–91, 1991–92, 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33540]

Mr. Robertson *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* The information on injuries and fatalities among those employed in Scottish farming as reported to the Health and Safety Executive is set out in the table.

Year	*Number of injuries*	*Number of fatalities*
1990–91	216	9
1991–92	195	6
1992–93	223	4
1993–94	193	8

Note:
The table shows injuries and fatalities reported to the HSE and to local authorities covering agriculture and horticulture. The HSE gets to know of virtually all workplace deaths but it is known that non-fatal injuries are subject to under-reporting; the extent of under-reporting may be considerable so the figures need to be interpreted in this light. Figures for 1994–95 are not yet available.

Road Accidents (Children)

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list by region the number of school children killed or injured on roads in the latest available year. [33309]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* The information requested is given in the following table.

Child casualties of school age (five to 16 years), by region and severity, 1994

Region	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Total*
Borders	1	15	77	93
Central	1	59	143	203
Dumfries and Galloway	—	32	60	92
Fife	—	47	151	198
Grampian	7	49	265	321
Highland	—	35	102	137
Lothian	3	117	504	624
Strathclyde	13	516	1,400	1,929
Tayside	3	82	280	365
Orkney	—	5	3	8
Shetland	—	—	8	8
Western Isles	1	6	17	24
Scotland	29	963	3,010	4,002

Sewerage Services

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what subsidy will be provided to each of the three new Scottish sewerage authorities to cover the costs of sewerage services in the years 1996–97, 1997–98 and 1998–99. [33312]

Mr. Kynoch *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Ayr (Mr. Gallie) on 15 June, *Official Report*, column *679*. The new public water and sewerage authorities will not receive a subsidy as such from the Government for the services they provide. In recognition of the change in financing of domestic sewerage, however, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will make regulations to reduce charges for domestic sewerage in 1996–97. He will give grant to the authorities to compensate for the income forgone. The amount of grant will be determined later this year, and the full charges will be phased in over a period of time.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Training for Work

Mr. Chidgey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will publish a breakdown by TEC administrative area showing the amount of spending on training for work as a percentage of TEC spending as a whole. [32365]

Mr. Paice: Information on Training and Enterprise Council spend, by programme, is not held centrally. Information is available on what the Department has paid to TECs under their contract. However, this does not equate to TEC spend; TECs may also spend funds obtained from sources other than the Department contract and from their own reserve.

Workstart

Mr. Chidgey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many of the people who participated in the original workstart pilot programme started in 1993 currently *(a)* employed with the original employer, *(b)* employed with another employer, *(c)* in training or education and *(d)* unemployed. [32366]

Mr. Forth: Approximately one third of the participants in the original workstart pilots are still on programme and therefore employed with the original employer. Destinations of participants who have left the programme will be obtained from a follow-up survey which is due to report in November 1995.

Mr. Chidgey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what obligation lies on employers in the second phase of workstart pilot schemes to provide training for people taken on. [32368]

Mr. Forth: Employers receiving a workstart subsidy are not required to offer training.

The evaluation of the initial workstart pilots found that nearly two thirds of employers felt new workstart recruits had the necessary skills to undertake the job adequately and they required no more help than would have been otherwise offered to new recruits.

Pamphlets and Mailings

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will list the *(a)* pamphlets and *(b)* mailings which her Department has issued since 22 June giving the subject for each. [33603]

Mr. Robin Squire: The Department has issued the following new brochures and booklets since 22 June:

ON EDUCATION TOPICS:

Final report to the DFE on a national survey of LEA's policies and procedures for the identification of, and provision for, children who are out of school by reason of exclusion or otherwise

GCSE to GCE A/AS—Value Added: Briefing for Schools and Colleges

GM ballots: Notes for Parents

Schools Update—Summer Term Issue

Technology Colleges and Language Colleges: Schools for the Future

ON EMPLOYMENT TOPICS:

Industrial Tribunal Procedure

Guidelines on Training for Offenders

Technical, Vocational and Education Initiative (TVEI):

Free Your Potential (Insight 33)

TVEI Briefings No 9

TVEI Report 1994

Adult and Training Strategy (Individual Commitment):

The Tool Kit Guide

Employee Development Schemes

The Tool Kit Summary

Youth Education and Policy:

Modern Apprenticeships—Employers' Leaflet

Equal Opportunities:

Equal Opportunities for Women

Careers Service:

Measuring Satisfaction with the Careers Service

Careers Guidance Performance Indicators for work with Clients with Special Needs

Working Models of Careers Guidance

A Review of Current Literature on the Careers Service

An Evaluation of the Use Made of Careers Service

Useful Products from the Careers Service

Careers Education and Guidance in Schools

Open Learning:

New Perspectives in Modern Language

Attracting small firms to Open Learning

Achieving Flexibility in Training

Open Learning in High Region Libraries

Open Learning Project Report

Loan and Learn—Stockport and Highpeaks

Open and Flexible Learning for People

Flexible Learning and Market Forces

Exemplar Project—Essex TEC

Translating Industrial German

Taking Training to Local Communities

Multi-Media and Tourism

Developing Open Learning Materials

Trainers' Guide to Learning Design

Technology in Learning

Briefing Notes for Project Managers

Learning Technologies Leaflet

French Language for UK Hotels

Computer Assisted Language Learning

The Enterprise Tutor

Opening Doors to Open Learning

Literacy and Numeracy

Dyslexia in Adults

Computer Conference for Distance Learning

Open Learning and NVQs

Thinking and Learning at Work

A Manager's Guide to Teleworking

National Education and Training Targets:

Developing Skills—A Successful Future

National Training Awards:

National Training Awards/Modern Apprenticeship Entry Forms

Small Firms Training Loans:

Direct mail letter to employers

Employment Service:

Job Club Members Workbook

Travel to Interview Scheme

General Job Club leaflet

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* pamphlets and *(b)* mailings have been issued by (i) the Funding Agency for Schools and (ii) the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation since 22 June. [33608]

Mr. Squire: There are matters for the funding agency and the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation respectively. I have asked the chairman of the funding agency to write to the hon. Member.

English Tests

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1) what assessment she has made of the external marking and assessment of English tests for 14–year–olds; and if she will make a statement; [33607]

(2) what assessment she has made of the external marking of the key stage two English tests. [33605]

Mr. Forth: The Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority is carrying out a thorough review of external marking for key stages 2 and 3 and will report when its review is complete. The full external marking process is not due to finish until the end of September.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1) what has been the cost of the external marking and assessment of English tests for 14–year–olds; [33606]

(2) what has been the cost of the external assessment and marking of English tests in key stage 2. [33604]

Mr. Forth: The estimated cost of the external marking process is estimated to be £19 million for this year's tests for 11 and 14–year–olds. It is not possible to identify separately the costs either for each age group or for individual subjects.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from her Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33887]

Mr. Robin Squire: The following firms have been awarded computer consultancy contracts by the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years:

Consultancy firm	*Number of contracts*
1990	
BIS Ltd.	3
Coopers and Lybrand	3
ICL Ltd.	3
Oracle	2
Butler Cox	1
CMG Ltd.	1
Henley Consultants	1
Hoskyns	1
Intac	1
Kinesis Computing	1
Lalcrest	1
LBMS	1
OCTS Ltd.	1
Radius	1
RML	1
SCOLL	1
Tranrate	1
Two B	1
1991	
SEMA Systems	6
LBMS	4
Kinesis Computing	3
Admiral Computing	2
BIS Ltd.	2
Coopers and Lybrand	2
Duhig Berry	2
EIS Ltd.	2
Express Consultants	2
Insight Consulting	2
Oracle	2
W. S. Atkins	2
BBT Statistical Services	1
Microsoft	1
MSL Ltd.	1
NCC	1
OCTS Ltd.	1
Radius	1
Research Machines	1
ROCC Ltd.	1
SCS	1
SD Scicon	1
Software Sciences	1
Sybase	1
1992	
BIS Ltd.	3
Coopers and Lybrand	2
Insight Consulting	2
Admiral Computing	1
Amtec Consulting	1
BBT Statistical Services	1
Duhig Berry	1
Express Consultants	1
Forvus Ltd.	1
Granada Computer Services	1
Hoskyns	1
Kinesis Computing	1
MFT Computer Systems	1
MSL Ltd.	1
OCTS Ltd.	1
Oracle	1
SEMA Systems	1
1993	
Express Consultants	2
Uden Consulting	2
AMP Systems Ltd.	1
Arden Business Consultants	1
BIS Ltd.	1
CMG Ltd.	1
Commercell Ltd.	1
Ingres Ltd.	1
J. Holdsworth	1
Kinesis Computing	1
Kingdon Technology	1
KPMG	1
Microsoft	1
OCTS Ltd.	1
Ove Arup	1
Pilat Ltd.	1
Trackit Systems	1
W. S. Atkins	1
1994	
W. S. Atkins	3
Arden Business Consultants	2
Data Sciences	2
DPS Ltd.	2
MFT Ltd.	2
Amtec Consulting	1
Aran Ltd.	1
Axios Systems	1
Coopers and Lybrand	1
ED5 Information Systems	1
Ernst and Young	1
Forvus Ltd.	1
Gloucester Computer Co.	1
Imagineering Ltd.	1
Kermon Ltd.	1
KPG Ltd.	1
MSL Ltd.	1
Microsoft	1
Ove Arup	1
Parity plc	1
PMS Communications	1
SAS Software	1
Shortlands	1
Systemstar Softools	1
University of Bath	1

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which firms of consultants employed by her Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33875]

Mr. Squire: Over the last year, instances of the Department paying more than £1,000 per day for individual representatives are restricted to the following firms:

Baring Brothers
Coopers and Lybrand
Ernst and Young
Hay Management Consultants
KPMG

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much her Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33856]

Mr. Squire: The value of computer consultancy contracts awarded by the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years is as follows:

Year	*Value of contracts £*
1990	448,000
1991	590,000
1992	380,000
1993	657,000
1994	691,000
1995	262,000

There is no projection of expenditure over the next five years.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts her Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33561]

Mr. Squire: The information requested is listed in the following table.

Year	*Number of contracts*	*Value £*
1990	47	974,000
1991	84	1,517,000
1992	39	1,994,000
1993	69	1,629,000
1994	96	1,800,000

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which her Department has been engaged since 1980. [33456]

Mr. Squire: Between 1980 and the end of the last financial year, the Department—when it had responsibility for science—spent some £627,000 on privatisation of the Plant Breeding Institute.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from her Department *(a)* by number contacts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33447]

Mr. Squire: The information requested for each of the last five years is as follows:

By number of contracts

Year	*Name of consultancy firm*
1990	Coopers and Lybrand
	KPMG
	BIS Ltd.
	ICL Ltd.
	PE International
1991	Coopers and Lybrand
	SEMA Systems
	LBMS
	PE International
	Touche Ross
1992	Coopers and Lybrand
	KPMG
	BIS Ltd.
	Price Waterhouse
	SEMA Systems
1993	Coopers Lybrand
	KPMG
	Touche Ross
	Price Waterhouse
	Ernst and Young
1994	Coopers and Lybrand
	KPMG
	Data Sciences
	Ernst and Young
	W. S. Atkins

By monetary value:

Year	*Name of consultancy firm*
1990	KPMG
	BIS Ltd.
	Coopers and Lybrand
	ICL Ltd.
	Touche Ross
1991	Coopers and Lybrand
	Touche Ross
	SEMA Systems
	LBMS
	PE International
1992	Coopers and Lybrand
	BIS Ltd.
	KPMG
	SEMA Systems
	Price Waterhouse
1993	Coopers and Lybrand
	KPMG
	Touche Ross
	Price Waterhouse
	Ernst and Young
1994	Coopers and Lybrand
	KPMG
	WS Atkins
	Ernst and Young
	Data Sciences

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts and for what total sum were let by her Department and agencies for which

it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and it subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries. *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries, *(i)* Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33915]

Mr. Squire: The number of contracts and their total sum awarded to each of the consultants and their subsidiaries during financial years 1993–94 and 1994–95 are as follows:

Consultant	*Number of contracts*	*Total value of contracts* £
1993–94		
(a) Coopers and Lybrand	9	258,000
(b) Peat Marwick	5	130,000
(c) Ernst and Young	0	—
(d) Arthur Andersen	0	—
(e) Price Waterhouse	2	36,000
(f) Grant Thornton	0	—
(g) Stoy Hayward	0	—
(h) Robson Rhodes	1	13,500
(i) Pannell Kerr Forster	0	—
1994–95		
(a) Coopers and Lybrand	4	443,000
(b) Peat Marwick	3	88,000
(c) Ernst and Young	1	80,000
(d) Arthur Andersen	0	—
(e) Price Waterhouse	0	—
(f) Grant Thornton	0	—
(g) Stoy Hayward	0	—
(h) Robson Rhodes	1	74,000
(i) Pannell Kerr Forster	0	—

Testing Costs

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what were the estimated costs of testing at *(a)* key stage 1, *(b)* key stage 2 and *(c)* key stage 3 in the current year. [33802]

Mr. Forth: A comprehensive breakdown of costs by each key stage is not available. The Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority estimates the costs of developing national tests and tasks and supporting consistency in assessment to be some £34 million in the financial year 1995–96. In addition, the Department is supporting 60 per cent. of the estimated £8 million costs of auditing the marking of the tasks and tests for key stage 1 and 60 per cent. of the estimated £15 million costs of providing supply cover for teachers administering the tasks and tests at key stage 1 and the tasks only at key stages 2 and 3.

Educational Achievements

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what research her Department has carried out into the educational achievements of young people who have left care. [33833]

Mr. Forth: The Department has not commissioned research on the educational achievements of young people after they left local authority care. A special study of the educational difficulties and needs of young people while in care was undertaken by HM inspectorate and the social services inspectorate jointly in 1994[1], whose emerging findings informed joint Department for Education-Department of Health guidance[2] on good practice in this field. Copies of these publications may be found in the Library.

[1]The Education of Children who are Looked After by Local Authorities (Department of Health & Ofsted, 1995)
[2]The Education of Children being looked after by Local Authorities (DFE Circular 13/94 DH LAC (94) 11).

Dance Education (Discretionary Awards)

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will make a statement on the future of discretionary awards for dance education. [33815]

Mr. Forth: The Government are aware of the difficulties faced by some potential students of dance in obtaining discretionary award support from their local authorities. My officials are currently considering, together with officials from the Department of National Heritage, whether anything might be done to help. No decisions have yet been taken.

Grant-maintained Schools

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many-grant maintained schools there are in each of the London borough council areas. [33486]

Mr. Robin Squire: The information requested is set out in the table.

GM schools in the London area

LEA area	*Number of GM schools*
Barking and Dagenham	0
Barnet	12
Bexley	8
Brent	15
Bromley	20
Camden	2
City of London	0
Croydon	12
Ealing	9
Enfield	6
Greenwich	1
Hackney	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	1
Haringey	0
Harrow	1
Havering	4
Hillingdon	23
Hounslow	2
Islington	0
Kensington and Chelsea	3
Kingston upon Thames	5
Lambeth	14
Lewisham	1
Merton	1
Newham	1
Redbridge	1
Richmond upon Thames	0
Southwark	10
Sutton	11
Tower Hamlets	1
Waltham Forest	2

GM schools in the London area

LEA area	*Number of GM schools*
Wandsworth	8
Westminster	0
Total	175

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many staff in her Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33418]

Mr. Squire: In the last five years, no member of staff has declared any company shareholdings. Staff are required to declare where they could be involved in a decision which could affect the value of shareholdings, such as through the award of a contract.

Teacher-pupil Ratio, Devon

Mr. Allason: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what was the teacher to pupil ratio in Devon in 1989–90 and latest year for which figures are available. [33491]

Mr. Robin Squire: The information is shown in the table.

Pupil: Teacher ratios in maintained primary and secondary schools in Devon local education authority area in 1990 and 1994

	Primary	*Secondary*
1989	22.3	16.1
1994	22.9	16.4

Departmental Staff (Coventry)

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will list separately, by each office of her Department, the numbers and grades of casuals, fixed appointments and vacancies in the Coventry travel-to-work area. [33778]

Mr. Robin Squire: In the Coventry travel-to-work area, there are four casual administrative officers. Two are based at Bankfield House unemployment benefit office, one at Park court jobcentre and one at Tile Hill jobcentre, all in Coventry.

There are no fixed appointments or vacancies in the Coventry travel-to-work area.

School Governors

Dr. Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations she has received on the impact on school governor training of the introduction of school effectiveness grants.

Mr. Robin Squire: The Department has had formal and informal discussions with a range of organisations about the school effectiveness activity within the grants for education support and training programme. The activity gives school governing bodies discretion to decide, in co-operation with the head teacher and school staff, how to spend the funds allocated to them in order to promote their school's effectiveness. That includes deciding what part of the funds to spend on governor training and support, so the impact of the activity will vary depending on the decisions taken by individual schools.

Nursery Vouchers

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimates have been made for *(a)* the administrative cost and *(b)* the total cost of providing nursery vouchers to the parents of all four-year-olds.

Mr. Robin Squire: The total cost of the voucher scheme for four-year-olds which my right hon. Friend has just announced is estimated at £730 million for full implementation in England. Administrative costs will be determined by the tendering process used to select a contractor to administer the scheme, but are expected to be up to 1.5 per cent. of the total cost of the scheme.

Sex Education

Miss Lestor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what monitoring arrangements her Department has in place to record the number of children being withdrawn from sex education in secondary schools.

Mr. Forth: The new statutory requirements for sex education, under the Education Act 1993, including the statutory parental right to withdraw their children, came into force on 1 September 1994. The Office for Standards in Education, as part of its regular programmes of inspections, will be monitoring schools' implementation of the full range of new arrangements.

Standard Spending Assessment

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if she will list the components of the standard spending assessment which account for differences in the standard spending assessment between London and Cheshire, other than the area cost adjustment; and if she will make a statement on the reasons for this differentiation; [33056]

(2) if she will list the components of the standard spending assessment which account for differences in the standard spending assessment between Manchester and Cheshire, other than the area cost adjustment; and if she will make a statement on the reasons for this differentiation; [33055]

(3) if she will list the average standard spending assessment per pupil in *(a)* London, *(b)* Manchester and *(c)* Cheshire, broken down into (i) total, (ii) additional educational needs and (iii) area cost adjustment. [33009]

Mr. Robin Squire: Within the education standard spending assessment methodology, there are three cost adjustments, apart from the area cost adjustment, which reflect variations between authorities in the cost of providing a standard level of service: (i) additional educational needs; (ii) sparsity; and (iii) free school meals.

The table sets out how much of the overall education SSA per pupil for London, Manchester and Cheshire is

attributable to the allowance for additional educational needs and the area cost adjustment. The figures are based on the primary sub-block of education SSAs but similar differentials apply to the secondary sub-block.

Education SSA per 5–10 year-old

LEA

	Overall SSA £	*Attributable to AEN* £	*Attributable to ACA* £
London	2,451	510	378
Manchester	2,258	673	0
Cheshire	1,817	253	0

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what plans she has to reassess the calculation of the standard spending assessment for pupils in secondary and primary schools; [33012]

(2) what plans she has to exclude pupils in independent schools from the calculation of the population receiving secondary and primary education, as part of the standard spending assessment; [33010]

(3) if she will list the percentage of pupils in *(a)* state schools and *(b)* independent schools in (i) London (ii) Oxfordshire and (iii) Cheshire. [33011]

Mr. Squire: We are consulting the local authority associations about the possibility of excluding from that part of the education standard spending assessment methodology that relates to resident population pupils in independent schools. All representations will be carefully considered before we decide whether changes should be made.

The table sets out the number of pupils in state schools and the number of children in independent schools as a percentage of resident population aged five to 18. A residual proportion of authorities' population is in neither state nor independent schools.

	Proportion of population in state schools	*Proportion of population in independent schools*
London	73.4	8.9
Oxfordshire	69.6	12.4
Cheshire	77.9	4.3

Returning to Teaching Guide

Mr. Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what was the cost of *(a)* publishing and *(b)* distribution of her Department's publication "Returning to Teaching—A guide to distance learning materials"; to whom it was distributed; and pursuant to page 1 of the document what is contained in it which does not have the approval of the Secretary of State. [32715]

Mr. Forth: The cost of producing "Returners to Teaching—a Guide to Distance Learning Materials" was some £120,000.

The cost of initial distribution of the guide to schools, teacher training institutions and local education authorities in England was some £33,500.

The guide, now the responsibility of the Teacher Training Agency, gave details of material available from a wide variety of sources, likely to be of interest to qualified teachers contemplating returning to teaching. The disclaimer explained that while the list of material had been carefully selected, neither the Secretary of State nor the Teacher Training Agency had approved the contents of the individual items.

Grammar Schools

Mr. Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children are currently educated in grammar schools. [32946]

Mr. Robin Squire: In January 1994, the latest date for which information is available, 116,193 pupils attended maintained grammar schools in England.

School Transport

Mr. Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much is currently spent from public funds on school transport.

Mr. Robin Squire: LEA expenditure in England on home to school transport for pre-primary, primary, secondary and special school pupils was £288 million in 1993–94, the latest year for which figures are available.

Selective Education

Mr. Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which European states have selective education.

Mr. Robin Squire: Three EU/EEA states operate selective entry to secondary school at age 11 or 12; Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. All other states provide comprehensive systems of lower education, although at upper secondary level—age 15+—vocational and general education is offered in many different types of schools.

Pre-school Provision

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to her answer of 14 June, *Official Report*, column *521*, what was the number and percentage of all four-year-olds, including the rising-fours and rising-fives, in *(a)* maintained nursery schools and nursery classes, *(b)* reception classes in primary schools, *(c)* private or voluntary sector provision and *(d)* *pre-school* provision overall, at the latest available date. [32065]

Mr. Forth: My earlier answer provided estimates of four-year-olds in maintained schools or some form of private or voluntary provision in England in January 1994. A more detailed breakdown is not available. From January 1996, the Department will collect information about rising fours—that is, children aged three in August whose fourth birthday falls between September and December. It is normal practice to exclude the rising fives—that is, children aged four in August whose fifth birthday falls between September and December—because they are of compulsory school age in January.

DEFENCE

Gurkhas (Brunei)

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if Gurkas will continue to be stationed in Brunei; and if he will make a statement. [34403]

Mr. Soames: On 19 June 1995, the Prime Minister and the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam signed an agreement that will extend the stationing of a Gurkha battalion in the Sultanate for a further five years from 29 September 1998. This reflects the close defence relations between our two countries.

Logistic Information Systems Agency

Mr. Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement about key targets for the Army's Logistic Information Systems Agency for 1995–96. [34404]

Mr. Soames: The Logistic Information Systems Agency was established as a Defence agency on 21 November 1994. The role of the agency is to enhance the logistic effectiveness of the Army in peace and war by providing information systems, services and support.

The chief executive has been set the following targets for the second year of operation:

Key Target 1: Meet performance levels laid down by the Quartermaster General for the timeliness, cost and planning effectiveness of information system projects.

95 per cent. on time.

95 per cent. within costs

80 per cent not adjusted for time or cost.

Key Target 2: By 31 March 1996 increase overall customer satisfaction with the services provided by LISA. Achieve a 70 per cent. satisfaction rating and at least a 40 per cent. return of surveys dispatched.

Key Target 3: Introduce dummy invoicing for all chargeable services provided by LISA by 31 March 1996.

Key Target 4: Initiate the selected partnership with the private sector or develop a plan for the implementation of an alternative "Competing for Quality" initiative.

Key Target 5: Fully implement IT support to LISA Finance and Business Systems by 31 March 1996.

Key Target 6: Achieve EN ISO 9001 certification for LISA by 31 March 1996.

Key Target 7: Continue to improve the efficiency by LISA's operations to meet the consolidated efficiency target of £676,000 defined in the owner's management plan.

Recruitment Costs

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the cost of recruitment to the armed forces in the last year for which figures are available. [32825]

Mr. Soames: Total expenditure on recruitment to the armed forces in financial year 1994–95 was £93,427,000.

Annual Reports

Mr. Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 20 June, *Official Report*, column *236*, if he will list the four inspecting grades of his departmental police who were awarded Box 4 assessments for their overall performance between 1990 and 1994, together with the appointments they held when given this assessment and the marks awarded in each category of part 3—aspect of performance—of their annual staff report. [32722]

Mr. Soames: The number of inspecting grades to receive box 4 assessments was in fact six; an incorrect figure which resulted from a computer error was unfortunately given in my answer of 20 June, *Official Report*, column *236*. Disciplinary action was not initiated against either of the two further officers as in both cases they responded to the advice, training and support given and were subsequently graded as meeting the requirements of the rank. It is not my Department's policy to provide more personal information of the type requested in this question.

HS800 Aircraft

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many HS800 twin-engined jet executive aircraft military and civilian versions are in service with *(a)* Her Majesty's Government and *(b)* the Ministry of Defence. [33097]

Mr. Soames: None.

Careers Information Office, Torquay

Mr. Allason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the site occupied until recently by the Army careers information office in Union street, Torquay. [33492]

Mr. Soames: The careers information office in Torquay is at present with the local Defence land agent for disposal action. Tenders are being invited for the appointment of selling agents.

Armed Forces Administration Facilities (Scotland)

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what facilities for *(a)* home defence and *(b)* the wartime administration of the armed forces have been provided within the Kincardine district of Scotland since 1980; and what were the costs of establishing or maintaining such facilities; [33313]

(2) what facilities for *(a)* home defence and *(b)* the wartime administration of the armed forces have been provided at the Inverbervie in the Montrose district of Scotland since 1980; and what were the costs of establishing or maintaining such facilities. [33315]

Mr. Soames: The only defence/wartime administration facility within the Kincardine district is at Inverbervie; there is no facility in Montrose. These facilities consist of a below-ground command centre. Maintenance costs have averaged £200 per annum since the MOD took over responsibility for its maintenance from the Property Services Agency. Receipts to the value of £2,500 per annum are received from a local farmer, for grazing rights, and Grampian regional council. Up until August 1992, a caretaker was employed for 30 hours per week at a cost of £7,359 annually. Between August 1992 and July 1993, the requirement was reduced to six hours per week at a cost of £1,322 annually. The caretaker post was subsequently cancelled.

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what facilities for *(a)* home defence and *(b)* the wartime

administration of the armed forces have been provided within the Lanark district of Scotland since 1980; and what were the costs of establishing or maintaining such facilities. [33314]

Mr. Soames: There are no home defence/wartime administration facilities within Lanark district.

Service Personnel

Dr. Godman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service men have been reinstated in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force following a conviction and a term of imprisonment for (i) murder, (ii) manslaughter, (iii) culpable homicide, (iv) sexual assault or rape and (v) offences involving homosexual activities in each of the past 15 years; and if he will make a statement. [33621]

Mr. Soames: No central record of this information is maintained and it would involve disproportionate cost to carry out a physical check of my Department's records over the past 15 years. It is, however, normal practice for service personnel to be discharged if they are sentenced to a term of imprisonment by a civil court, although in exceptional circumstances there is discretion to retain individuals in service.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those Governments which have been invited to the DESO exhibition in Aldershot in September. [33238]

Mr. Arbuthnot: It has been the consistent practice of successive administrations not to release details of invitations to attend British forces equipment exhibitions. Invitations are issued on a confidential basis and it would be a breach of trust to disclose details.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department or its agencies over the last five years, indicating the number of contracts per firm; [33932]

(2) how much his Department or its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the anticipated expenditure over the next five years. [33934]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available; [33446]

(2) which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33933]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Avocet Explosive Waste Incineration, Shoeburyness

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to permit the burning of munitions waste on open ground or a beach in the vicinity of the mid-Essex coast. [33987]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm to Ms Joan Ruddock, dated 12 July 1995:

1. Your priority written question to the Secretary of State for Defence about plans for burning munitions waste on open ground or beaches in the vicinity of the mid Essex coast, has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, has included the Defence Test and Evaluation Organisation (DTEO) Ranges at Shoeburyness, Essex.

2. Currently conventional munitions are disposed of by a number of means on the Shoeburyness range area in Essex. These munitions are mainly those which have arisen from wartime clearance operations or munitions which are no longer safe for service. No chemical munitions are disposed of at Shoeburyness. Hitherto munitions had been disposed of by deep sea dumping but this was banned in 1993. The method chosen for disposal depends largely on the nature of the munitions, the size of the explosive component and safety of and environmental considerations.

3. One method employed is to burn the munitions in preference to detonating them with allthe noise problems involved. The preferred method of burning is to incinerate the munitions in an explosive waste incinerator, code named "AVOCET", with a complex pollution control system which reduces the pollution emissions to levels below the EC and HMP permitted levels.

4. Some munitions, notably those which are extremely sensitive or with too high an explosive content for Avocet processing, are burned in the open both on the tidal and flats and on the land. The temperatures achieved when these munitions burn are well in excess of 800 degrees centigrade and at these temperatures volatile organic compounds are destroyed. The residues of these burns are immediately removed for disposal by a commercial waste disposal company under the terms of the 1990 Environmental Protection Act.

5. I hope this information is helpful.

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what grounds Shoeburyness was chosen for the siting of the Avocet explosive waste incineration system. [33988]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm to Ms Joan Ruddock, dated 12 July 1995:

1. Your priority written question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking why Shoeburyness was chosen for the siting of the AVOCET explosive waste incineration system, has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, has included the Defence Test and Evaluation Organisation (DTEO) Ranges at Shoeburyness, Essex.

2. With the end of the Cold War and the resultant stockpiles of surplus or unsafe munitions, combined with the international ban on the deep sea dumping in 1993, large amounts of unserviceable munitions are currently awaiting disposal. There is also a considerable annual requirement to dispose of unexploded wartime munitions found in this country. Shoeburyness was chosen in 1993 as the UK focus for munitions disposal based on a number of factors:

It is a large range area (over 7000 acres plus tidal sands of 35,000 acres) and as such it has the area required for the safe disposal of items with a large explosive content. There is no other site in the UK which can offer similar facilities.

It also has the experienced Army Ammunition Technicians competent to safely and efficiently dispose of such munitions.

It has the storage facilities required for safe and secure holding of munitions whilst awaiting disposal.

It also has the means to receive munitions by sea. In some cases the munitions are not cleared for movement by overland means and the alternative is to land them over the beach from specialist military shipping without a danger to the public.

In essence, Shoeburyness was carefully chosen as the most suitable and safest place to carry out the MOD duty of care to dispose of unwanted or unserviceable munitions without risk to the public.

3. The AVOCET explosive waste incineration system is one of the most advanced methods of munitions disposal systems available in the world today. Its development was a direct response to the need for a more environmentally friendly system of disposing of unwanted ammunition and it is favoured as a method for disposal over burning, burying and detonation of unwanted ammunition each of which have drawbacks.

4. I hope this is helpful

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the quantity of ammunition to be incinerated in the Avocet explosive waste incineration system at Shoeburyness and over what period. [33989]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm, to Ms Joan Ruddock, dated 12 July 1995:

1. Your priority written question to the Secretary of State for Defence about the quantity of ammunition to be incinerated in the AVOCET explosive waste incineration system and over what period, has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, has included the Defence Test and Evaluation Organisation (DTEO) Ranges at Shoeburyness, Essex.

2. In the current year the AVOCET facility is programmed to accept 500 tonnes (All Up Weight) of conventional munitions. In subsequent years the system is programmed for 1500–20000 (All UP Weight) per year for up to 10 years (based on current predictions of UK ammunition disposal requirements).

3. The AVOCET facility is licensed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP). It is not used for the disposal of chemical weapons nor is it used for disposing of anything containing radioactive traces.

4. I hope this information is helpful.

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to incinerate ammunition imported into Britain at the Avocet explosive waste incineration system in Shoeburyness. [33990]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm to Ms Joan Ruddock, dated 12 July 1995:

1. Your priority written question to the Secretary of State for Defence about plans to incinerate ammunition imported into Britain at the AVOCET waste incinerator system at Shoeburyness has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which, since April, has included the Defence Test and Evaluation Organisation (DTEO) Ranges at Shoeburyness, Essex.

2. The AVOCET explosive waste disposal incinerator is based on United States rotary kiln furnace technology which has been integrated and enhanced with a UK designed and manufactured pollution control system which enables the safest and most environmentally sound means of disposing of conventional ammunition currently available. Emission levels from the incinerator are well below current and projected Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP) and European Commission levels making the system a world leader.

3. The primary purpose of the AVOCET Explosive Waste Incinerator is to dispose of the UK arisings of surplus ammunition and ammunition found in Explosive Ordnance Disposal operations. These items are part of the UK duty of care to dispose of our explosive waste.

4. There are currently no plans to import ammunition from other countries as there is only sufficient capacity in AVOCET for the UK requirement. In the future, if sufficient capacity existed in the system, arisings from elsewhere may be considered but only after all the factors had been considered including the nature of the munitions, the country of origin and manufacture, and the safety and environmental implications of both transport an disposal.

5. I hope this information is helpful.

RAF Fylingdale

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reasons underlie the decision not to uphold byelaws at RAF Fylingdales with particular reference to byelaw 2b on persons entering the applicable area. [33963]

Mr. Soames: No such decision has been made.

Menwith Hill Station

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to renew the American security of tenure at Menwith Hill Station when it expires in May 1997; and whether any proposal to renew the lease will be brought to the House for approval. [33948]

Mr. Soames: The United States forces, who are in the United Kingdom pursuant to the NATO status of forces agreement of 1951, use Menwith Hill Station under confidential administrative arrangements between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It is not our practice to comment on the details of such arrangements. No lease has ever been granted.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many injunctions are currently in force to prevent intrusions at Mentwith Hill Station; and if he will name those against whom injunctions have been obtained. [33961]

Mr. Soames: One injunction is in place against Ms Percy.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many injunction proceedings have been started against people who have trespassed at the American National Security Agency base at Menwith Hill Station since the one brought against Ms Lindis Percy in October 1991. [33954]

Mr. Soames: None. However, we reserve the right to bring injunctions against any persons who persist in trespassing on Ministry of Defence property where they have no right to be.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to give powers to the National Security Agency of America to be a lawful user of Menwith Hill Station in relation to the proposed byelaws; how long his legal department has been working on the drafting of new byelaws; and at what total cost. [33959]

Mr. Soames: The National Security Agency of America is already in lawful occupation of the Menwith Hill Station site under the terms of the confidential administrative arrangements between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and will continue to be a "lawful user" of the site in relation to the proposed byelaws. Work on a review of byelaws has been in progress for approximately two years, involving staff from several areas of the Department; the costs involved could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have been arrested and prosecuted for aggravated trespass under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 at the America National Security Agency base at Menwith Hill. [33956]

Mr. Soames: One person has been arrested under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 at Menwith Hill Station. The question of prosecution is still under consideration.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who at Menwith Hill Station will be required to sign the proposed byelaws for the purpose of enforcement of byelaws. [33962]

Mr. Soames: The byelaws, when made, will be signed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence. As with all other Ministry of Defence sites, the authorisation for purposes of enforcement of byelaws will be signed by the senior United Kingdom officer with security responsibilities at the establishment concerned; at Menwith Hill Station this is at present the chief inspector, Ministry of Defence police.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish or place in the Library the precise wording of the security of tenure document regarding the leasing of Menwith Hill Station to the National Security Agency of America. [33947]

Mr. Soames: This is a confidential administrative arrangements between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States. It would therefore not be appropriate to publish or to comment on the details of such arrangements.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what grounds it is necessary to introduce new byelaws at Menwith Hill Station in addition to existing criminal and civil remedies to deter intruders. [33960]

Mr. Soames: The Menwith Hill Station byelaws are the first set in a complete revision of byelaws for all establishments which we consider require them. They are intended to provide protection for all MOD establishments where other criminal or civil law does not provide sufficient remedy.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people have appealed against their convictions under the HMS Forest Moor and Menwith Hill Station Byelaws 1986 since they were declared defective on their face in the High Court in July 1992; how many of these appeals were contested; and how many were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* dismissed. [33953]

Mr. Soames: The information requested is not held by my Department.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the United States Army handed control of Menwith Hill Station to the USAF/NSA electronic surveillance group; for what reasons the transfer of control was made; what parliamentary procedures applied; if the change of control fell within the remit of the terms of the War Office/USAF agreement on 11 December 1951 under which the USAF were given the right to occupy and control RAF bases in Britain; and whether this agreement extends to non-Royal Air Force bases. [33949]

Mr. Soames: In 1966, with the agreement of Her Majesty's Government, Menwith Hill Station became a field element of the National Security Agency. United States forces use Menwith Hill Station under confidential arrangements between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It is not our policy to comment on the details of such arrangements.

US Forces

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times, when and by whom the ambassadors' agreement regarding American occupation of British Royal Air Force bases has been subjected to periodic review; and if he will place a copy of this agreement in the Library. [33950]

Mr. Soames: It is not our policy to comment on the detail of confidential arrangements between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America; the basis on which United States forces are stationed in the United Kingdom is contained in the NATO status of forces agreement of 1951.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what agreement exists between Her Majesty's Government and the United States Government, in their respective Defence Departments, to allow American personnel who are occupying and controlling British bases to employ psychological operations units against British subjects either inside or outside of these bases. [33958]

Mr. Soames: No such operations are undertaken in this country by the US forces against British subjects.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British RAF bases are occupied and controlled by the US Department of Defense; if he will list those bases by name; how many non-RAF bases are similarly occupied and controlled; if he will list those bases; how many of those RAF and non-RAF bases employ members of the National Security Agency of America; and if he will list such bases. [33951]

Mr. Soames: As of 1 July 1995, bases and facilities were made available to the United States Department of Defence at the following locations:

Main Operating Bases
RAF Lakenheath
RAF Mildenhall
Standby Deployment Base
RAF Fairford
Storage/Support Facilities
RAF Alconbury
RAF Brawdy
Chilwell
RAF Daws Hill
Eastcote
Framlingham
RAF Hythe
London USN Europe HQ
RAF Molesworth
RAF Northwood
Oakington
RAF Spadeadam
RAF Watton
RAF Welford
West Ruislip
Wartime Contingency Hospitals
RAF Arbroath
RAF Nocton Hall
RAF Upwood
Communications Facilities
RAF Barford St John
RAF Barkway
Botley Hill
Bovingdon
RAF Chelveston
RAF Chicksands
Christmas Common
Coldblow
RAF Croughton
RAF Daventry
RAF Dunkirk
RAF Edzell
RAF Feltwell
Menwith Hill Station
RAF Oakhanger
RAF St Mawgan
RAF Swingate
RAF Uxbridge
NATO Armaments Depot
Glen Douglas

While these have been made available for use by United States visiting forces, Her Majesty's Government retain legal possession of the sites and control over the use that is made of them and their facilities. It is not our policy to comment in further detail on operational matters.

US Communication Centres

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many US Department of Defense communication centres operate from British soil; and if he will list them and the agencies by which their workers are employed. [33952]

Mr. Soames: As of 1 July 1995, there were 18 United States Department of Defense communications facilities in the UK as follows:

RAF Barford St John
RAF Barkway
Botley Hill
Bovingdon
RAF Chelveston
RAF Chicksands
Christmas Common
Coldblow
RAF Croughton
RAF Daventry
RAF Dunkirk
RAF Edzell
RAF Feltwell
Menwith Hill Station
RAF Oakhangar
RAF St Mawgan
RAF Swingate
RAF Uxbridge

It is not our policy to give details of personnel assignment.

Public Interest Immunity Certificates

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many public interest immunity certificates he has issued during the last five years; and if he will list them. [33955]

Mr. Soames: I have nothing to add to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark) on 3 July 1995, *Official Report*, column 92.

National Security Agency of America

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the National Security Agency of America operates from *(a)* RAF Croughton and *(b)* RAF Chicksands. [33957]

Mr. Soames: RAF Croughton and RAF Chicksands are US Department of Defense communications centres managed by the United States Air Force. It is not our policy to comment further on operational matters.

Market Testing

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a further statement on market testing in respect of Royal Air Force establishments. [33098]

Mr. Soames: Further to my answer of 18 May to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark) *Official Report*, column *303*, about Royal Air Force activities which have been market tested, listed below are those Royal Air Force establishments and functions where exposure to the "Competing for Quality" process has commenced or is planned to begin in the current financial year:

RAF Machrihanish
RAF Hospital Wegberg
VIP helicopters
Flight Simulators and Synthetic Trainers Maintenance
RAF Stornoway
RAF Lyneham
RAF High Wycombe
Target Facilities engineering support, 100 Squadron
RAF Ascension
RAF Northolt
RAF St. Mawgan
Aircraft Ground Maintenance Schools
IUKADGE stations
RAF Brize Norton
RAF St. Athan
RAF Sealand
RAF Oakhanger, 1001 Signals Unit
RAFSEE Henlow
RAF Brampton/Wyton facilities management
RAF distribution services
RAF Halton support services
University Air Squadrons
Air Traffic Control at Valley, Shawbury, Cosford, Linton-on-Ouse, Cranwell and Newton
RAF Valley
RAF Linton-on-Ouse
RAF Cosford support services
RAF Shawbury
RAF Cranwell
RAF Innsworth
RAF Uxbridge
Multi-engine pilot training trial

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 13 July 1995

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Paper Week Exhibition (Upper Waiting Hall)

Sir Roger Moate: To ask the Chairman of the Administration Committee if he has considered an application for an exhibition relating to paper week to be displayed in the Upper Waiting Hall.

Mr. Michael J. Martin: I understand that, under procedures agreed by the Administration Committee, arrangements have been made for the exhibition to be held in the Upper Waiting Hall from Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November 1995.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Rainbow Warrior (French Attack)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the French Government about the attack on the Rainbow Warrior, and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy in respect of this incident. [34156]

Mr. David Davis: No representations have been made to the French Government about the Rainbow Warrior action. We have however reminded the French authorities of their obligations in respect of any UK nationals who might be detained.

Common Agricultural Policy

Ms Quin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the intergovernmental conference reflections group to discuss the reform of the common agricultural policy. [33609]

Mr. David Davis: The IGC study group has not yet discussed the common agricultural policy, and may not do so in any details. The 1992 MacSharry reforms demonstrated that the problems of the CAP stem less from the provisions of the treaty than from the policy which has been developed on the basis of those provisions. We shall continue to work for reform of the CAP in the appropriate fora.

Embassies (Vehicles)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, column *326*, if he will provide a breakdown of the figures for vehicles bought for posts abroad, specifying where possible the post and type of vehicle. [34290]

Mr. Hanley: I shall arrange for the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House shortly.

Consulates and Embassies (South Pacific)

Dr. Marek: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the United Kingdom consulates and embassies in the south Pacific region, indicating the number of diplomatic staff employed at each location *(a)* currently and *(b)* 10 years ago. [34186]

Mr. Hanley: The number of UK-based staff slots at each post in the south Pacific region is as follows:

Post	*1995*	*1985*
Canberra	28	48
Sydney	4	4
Perth	2	2
Brisbane	2	2
Melbourne	2	2
Wellington	14	15
Auckland	2	4
Port Moresby	4	4
Suva	4	6
Nuku'Alofa	2	2
Vila	2	2
Honiara	2	2
Tarawa	0	1

Mrs. Quereshi Bibi

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of the Secretary of State for the Home Department of 29 June, *Official Report*, column *765*, when a decision is to be taken by the post in Islamabad, in the case of Mrs. Quereshi Bibi—ref. BV100/25109; and if he will make a statement. [34319]

Mr. Hanley: I have asked the high commission at Islamabad for details and will arrange for the hon. Member to receive a substantive reply from the migration and visa correspondence unit as soon as possible.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33893]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The FCO is involved in a number of strategic projects to develop and enhance its communications and information handling facilities. As such, it has dealt with many different software suppliers and consultants. The information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33862]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The FCO spend on computer consultancy over the last five years was:

1990–91: £3,985,000
1991–92: £4,074,000
1992–93: £4,527,000
1993–94: £5,076,000
1994–95: £4,984,000
1995–96: £6,300,000
1996–97: £6,100,000
1997–98: £5,700,000
1998–99: £5,700,000
1999–2000: £6,000,000

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Land Registry

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what was the outcome of the triennial review of Her Majesty's Land Registry. [34822]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Her Majesty's Land Registry, a separate department of Government since 1862, was established as an executive agency in July 1990 and a Government trading fund in April 1993. Under its statutory powers it guarantees and grants legal title to property rights in England and Wales and provides the statutory machinery for the creation and transfer of these secured rights. The department, wholly financed from fees paid by those using its services, makes no call on public funds.

An evaluation report, the results of which were made known to the House on 14 July 1994, concluded that the Land Registry had benefited considerably from its move to agency status. It had been a major enabling factor in promoting sound public sector management. By the achievement of progressively improving performance targets and a successful computerisation programme, the Land Registry has made a major contribution to the simplification of conveyancing in England and Wales, particularly through the development of faster and easier access to the public land register. It reduced fees by 10.6 per cent. in October 1994.

In order to supplement this evaluation, consultants were appointed to carry out a "prior options" review to consider a range of options for involving the private sector in delivering the services provided by the Land Registry. They confirmed that the present status arrangements would ensure the continuing credibility of the Land Registry consistent with a cost effective, high-quality service likely to result in lower land registration fees to the public.

The consultants identified scope for private sector partnerships in a number of important Land Registry initiatives. This includes further development of electronic access to the public land register, taking forward the national land information system promoted by the citizen's charter, and the potential conversion of the title plans of England and Wales to computer format. Consultants also saw scope for the Land Registry, in partnership, providing specialist advice to those overseas Governments seeking to establish stable private property rights, secured lending and inexpensive systems of property transfer.

The Lord Chancellor has concluded that it is right for Her Majesty's Land Registry to continue as an executive agency and trading fund. The Land Registry will concentrate on its existing plans to further simplify and reduce the cost of conveyancing in England and Wales by meeting the financial, productivity and developmental targets set for the next five years and by continuing its full market testing programme, all set out in its corporate and efficiency plans. The registry will also actively pursue private sector partnerships for the important initiatives identified. It will continue to capitalise on the scope for contracting out where this contributes to its strategic aims and objectives. A new framework document is being drawn up to cover the next five years and on completion will be placed in the Library of the House.

Legal Aid

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how much he estimates it will cost to extend legal aid to qualifying persons bringing personal injury claims up to the value of £10,000 on the proposed civil litigation fasttrack. [34245]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Until there has been an opportunity for the Lord Chancellor to consider the proposals in greater detail, it will not be possible to make an assessment of the potential cost or savings to the legal aid fund.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how much he expects the Legal Aid Board to save if children are no longer able to be parties to legal actions brought on their behalf against the decisions of local education authorities. [34242]

Mr. Taylor: No estimate has been made.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what factors led to the delay in the Legal Aid Board sanctioning of funds for the appeal to the High Court in the case of Emma Van de Velde *v.* Special Needs Tribunal. [34246]

Mr. Taylor: The administration of civil legal aid is the responsibility of the Legal Aid Board. However, I understand that both of Miss Van de Velde's applications were dealt with promptly by the board; the first within 12 working days, and the second, for an emergency certificate, within 24 hours.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what plans he has to *(a)* estimate and *(b)* publish the potential cost savings to the legal aid fund to be made from raising the upper limit on small claims from £1,000 to £3,000. [34243]

Mr. Taylor: The Lord Chancellor has announced his intention to implement Lord Woolf's recommendations that the small claims limit should be raised to £3,000 for all claims except those for personal injury. Lord Woolf's recommendations is based on the desirability of making the less formal and more affordable small claims procedure available to more litigants. There are likely to be some small savings to the legal aid fund from increasing the limit. The level of such savings is still being assessed. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is completed.

Civil Justice Reform

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing Lord Woolf's proposals for civil justice reform, with particular reference to *(a)* those relating to the greater use of information technology by judges and the Court Service, *(b)* a greater case management role for judges, *(c)* the appointment of a head of civil justice and *(d)* enhanced judicial training. [34244]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Until there has been an opportunity for the Lord Chancellor to consider the proposals in greater detail, it will not be possible to provide any cost estimates.

Courts Agency

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what was the average time his Department took to respond to a letter from an hon. Member before the establishment of the Courts Agency; and what is the average time taken by the agency to respond to a letter from an hon. Member in the first three months of its operation. [33166]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The information requested in the first part of the question could not be provided without disproportionate cost. However I refer the hon. Member to the *Official Report* for 18 April 1995, column 22 in which the Under-Secretary of State at the Office of Public Service and Science, replying to a question from the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Dover) said that in 1994, my Department replied to 83 per cent. of correspondence from right hon. and hon. Members within its 20 working day target. The second part of the question, concerning the average time taken by the Court Service to respond to a letter from an hon. Member, concerns a specific operational question upon which the chief executive of the court service is best placed to reply. I have accordingly asked him to do so.

Letter from Michael Huebner to Mr. Chris Mullin, dated 13 July 1995:

RESPONSES TO MP'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question concerning the time taken to reply to correspondence from Members of Parliament.

From the latest information available I am able to let you know that the average time taken to reply to a letter from a Member of Parliament was 22 days. I understand that a separate response is being provided by the Parliamentary Secretary about correspondence dealt with by his office.

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Staff Shareholdings

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Lord President of the Council how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned.

Mr. Newton: The answer in both cases is none.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Lord President of the Council what will be the involvement of the Deputy Prime Minister in the work of his office.

Mr. Newton: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger) on 11 July, *Official Report*, column *496–97*.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Lord President of the Council if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials, to public funds for each year since 1992.

Mr. Newton: I visited Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong from 5 to 24 September 1992. The principal purpose of the visits to Australia and New Zealand was to meet my counterparts and to exchange experience in the field of procedural reforms, preparation and scrutiny of legislation etc. The principal purpose of the visit to Hong Kong was to study measures against drug misuse, in the context of my chairmanship of the Ministerial Committee on Drug Misuse; this visit was however curtailed by the recall of Parliament that year. The only official accompanying me was a private secretary. The cost to public funds was £20,904.

My right hon. and noble Friend Lord Wakeham, when Lord Privy Seal, visited Dubai from 24 to 26 April 1994 to open the "Britain in the Gulf" exhibition. The only official accompanying him was a private secretary. The cost to public funds was £2,619.

My right hon. and noble Friend the Lord Privy Seal accompanied His Royal Highness the Duke of York to the French Government's 50th anniversary commemoration of the liberation of southern France from 13 to 15 August 1994. The only official accompanying him was a private secretary. Travel was in an aircraft of the queen's flight. There was no further cost to public funds.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Commodity Exchanges

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance has been given by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* EU aid to establish or develop commodity exchanges for cocoa, coffee or sugar in developing countries; and if he will list the date, location and value of any aid projects of this type approved by his Department or the EU in the past five years. [34301]

Mr. Hanley: We have supported a number of commodity-based projects in developing countries, bilaterally, through the EC and through the common fund for commodities. The objectives have included assistance with production, diversification and marketing, but the development of commodity exchanges in developing countries has not, to date, been one of our principal aims.

A list of bilateral projects and those supported through the command fund for commodities in the field is being placed in the Library of the House. We are investigating whether a similar list exists for EC-funded projects.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Sex Shops and Cinemas

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list all legislation under which unauthorised sex shops and sex cinemas can be prosecuted; and how many prosecutions under each provision there have been in the last five years. [32966]

Mr. Maclean: The legislation under which unauthorised sex shops and sex cinemas can be prosecuted is the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The relevant provisions are as follows:

Schedule 3, paragraph 20(a), (b), (c) and (d)—offences relating to operating a sex establishment without or in contravention of the terms of a licence.

Schedule 3, paragraph 21—making a false statement in a connection with the application, renewal or transfer of a licence.

Under Schedule 3, paragraph 22(1), a person guilty of an offence under paragraphs 20 or 21 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £20,000.

Under schedule 3, paragraph 22(2) a person who fails to comply with paragraph 14(1) (display of copy of licence and standard conditions) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Schedule 3, paragraph 23—offences relating to the admission or employment of persons under 18. A person guilty of an offence under this paragraph shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £20,000.

Schedule 3, paragraph 24(6)—refusal to permit a constable or authorised local authority officer to exercise powers provided under paragraph 24. For every such refusal a person shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

In 1989, there was one prosecution under schedule 3 paragraph 20(a) of the Act. However it should be noted that statistics of court proceedings are based on returns made by the police to the Home Office and although these include offences where there has been no police involvement, such as those prosecutions instigated by Government Departments, local authorities, as in this case, and private organisations and individuals, the reporting of these types of offences is known to be incomplete.

Information collected from 1990 onwards does not identify individual offences committed under this specific Act from other summary offences.

Money Laundering

Mrs. Barbara Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many officers in each police service are devoted to investigating reports from banks of possible money laundering. [33119]

(2) how many reports the National Criminal Intelligence Service received from banks about possible money laundering in each of the last three years; [33120]

(3) what has been the average length of time taken over the last year *(a)* for NCIS to respond to reports of banks' suspicions of money laundering and pass the information on to individual police forces and *(b)* for individual police forces to investigate such reports; [33121]

(4) how many staff at NCIS are currently employed in responding to banks' suspicions of money laundering; [33122]

(5) what resources NCIS has invested in investigating money laundering in each of the last three years. [33123]

Mr. Maclean: Investigation of possible cases of money laundering is a matter primarily for the police and HM Customs and Excise. The role of the financial intelligence and money laundering section of the National Criminal Intelligence Service is to research and develop disclosures made to it and to enhance their intelligence value before dissemination to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The cost of the section is estimated as:

1993–94: £450,000

1994–95: £460,000

1995–96: £530,000 (estimated)

As at 1 July 1995, there were 13 staff employed in the section.

The number of disclosures received by NCIS from banks and other financial institutions in each of the last three years is as follows:

1992: 11,542

1993: 12,736

1994: 15,007

It is estimated that the average time taken by the NCIS to process financial disclosures during 1994 was 12 weeks. This has now been reduced to 20 working days.

Information with regard to the average time taken by police forces to process such reports is not collected.

I understand that there are about 360 trained financial investigation officers in police forces in England and Wales. Other officers will be involved in financial investigations at different times.

Transport of Prisoners (Securicor)

Mrs. Barbara Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what has been the total time by which court proceedings have been delayed because of late delivery of prisoners by Securicor to courts in London; [32536]

(2) what has been the cost to public funds of delays to court proceedings caused by late delivery of prisoners by Securicor to courts in London; [32538]

(3) what sanctions he has in respect of Securicor's failure to deliver prisoners to the Court of Appeal on time; and what action he plans to take; [32540]

(4) how many prisoners Securicor has escorted to court since the service was contracted out; and how many of these have been delivered to court late, or within so little time to spare that court proceedings have been delayed. [32542]

Miss Widdecombe *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* Responsibility for these matters has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 13 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Questions about the delivery of prisoners to courts in London by Securicor Custodial Services Ltd.

Between the start of the contract on 27 June 1994 and 31 May 1995 Securicor escorted 52,422 prisoners to court. Of this total 1,520 prisoners (2.9%) were delivered late for reasons within Securicor's control. Prisoners may also be delivered late to court for reasons that are outside Securicor's control. Under the terms of the contract, a late delivery occurs if a prisoner arrives at a court less than 30 minutes before the court starts sitting.

Securicor is meeting the performance target set out in the contract for delivering prisoners to court. If they fail to do so, default notices may be issued and financial remedies applied if performance does not improve. Ultimately, as with all contracts, the contract may be terminated. Since 20 June the latest time prisoners arrived at the Court of Appeal was 9.07 am. The contractual requirement is that they arrive by 9.30 am.

It is not possible to say by how much court proceedings have been delayed as a result of prisoners arriving late at court or how much any such delays may have cost. Not all cases at court involving prisoners begin at the same time and not all courts hear custody cases first.

You may be interested to know that in a recent survey, 86% of customers (the courts, the police and the prisons in London) were either satisfied or very satisfied with Securicor's punctuality and flexibility. In addition, 97% of court staff felt that Securicor were providing an equal (28%) or better (69%) service than they received before.

Overseas Domestic Workers

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what action he has taken to monitor the workings of the new undertaking employers are required to sign when bringing their overseas domestic workers into the United Kingdom; [33991]

(2) what action he has taken to monitor the workings of the new undertaking employers are required to sign when bringing their overseas domestic workers into Scotland. [33992]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Employers are required to sign an undertaking to maintain and accommodate their domestic workers satisfactorily, including the provision of a separate bedroom, when applications for entry clearance are made. In the case of domestic workers who come for longer than a visit, when applications for further leave to remain are made, inquiries are made that the conditions of the scheme, including adequate maintenance and accommodation, continue to be met.

Firearms

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns *349–50* if he will give details of each of the incidents involving a reactivated firearm. [34238]

Mr. Maclean: I am now aware of 20 incidents since the beginning of 1993. I understand that two were murders, seven others resulted in a non-fatal injury and four involved shots being fired, apparently without causing injury, in the course of crime. In the remaining seven incidents, there was no injury or evidence that they were associated with any other crime. Twelve of the incidents are reported as having taken place in the Greater Manchester police force area, two each in Mersyside, West Yorkshire and the West Midlands and one each in Lancashire and the Metropolitan police district.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many homicides involving *(a)* shotguns and *(b)* other firearms have taken place in each police force area in each of the last five years; and how many of the victims in each case were women; [34157]

(2) how many thefts of *(a)* shotguns and *(b)* other firearms took place in each of the last five years, (i) from domestic premises and (ii) from other premises in each police force area. [34158]

Mr. Maclean: The information requested is not immediately available and I will write to the hon. Member.

Mr. Goodson-Wickes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he will lay before Parliament the sixth annual report of the Firearms Consultative Committee. [34716]

Mr. Howard: I have today placed a copy of the annual report of the Firearms Consultative Committee in the Library.

Mrs. Rehana Fiaz

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the United Kingdom post in Islamabad asked the Home Office to arrange for the sponsor of Mrs. Rehana Fiaz (Ref.GV 100/27227) to be interviewed; where and when the interview is to take place; and if he will make a statement. [34300]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The request from the British high commission in Islamabad for an interview of Mrs. Rehana Fiaz's sponsor was received by the Home Office on 15 December 1994. Arrangements have been made to interview the sponsor on 8 August at the immigration office at Leeds/Bradford airport.

Pre-trial Procedures (High Court)

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals the Government have to improve pre-trial procedures in the Crown Court. [34715]

Mr. Howard: The Government share the view of the Royal Commission on criminal justice that further measures are needed to improve the effectiveness of pre-trial hearings in the Crown Court, to enable issues to be clarified and resolved in advance of the trial.

To achieve this, we propose providing for a power for judges to make binding rulings before the start of the trial, and for an extension of the existing system of preparatory hearings, currently held in serious fraud cases, to other potentially long or complex cases. These proposals are contained in a consultation paper on improving the effectiveness of pre-trial hearings in the Crown Court—which we are publishing today.

Stolen Vehicles

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures his Department are undertaking to limit the number of vehicles stolen. [33577]

Mr. Maclean: Vehicle crime decreased by almost 2 per cent. in 1993 and by 10 per cent. in 1994. This downward trend is encouraging and it would appear that the measures taken by the Department are having an effect.

The Department is addressing vehicle crime in a number of ways, and the following are just a few examples of the work being done by the Home Office.

The prevention of car crime was a central feature of our 1992 car crime prevention year campaign which showed what could be done if car owners, the police, motor manufacturers, the insurance industry, motoring organisations and car park operators made a concerted effort to tackle the problem together.

The Home Office public relations branch produces a range of crime prevention advice leaflets covering crimes committed against different types of vehicles.

Home Office Ministers have asked manufacturers to introduce effective immobilisation systems, deadlocking, and visible vehicle identification numbers; and the Home Office police scientific and development branch has provided free technical advice to manufacturers on how to do this.

The Home Office has worked closely with the Department of Transport to ensure that the British standards on vehicle security we wanted were incorporated into the compulsory EC directive 74/61.

The Department supports the work of SOLD SECURE, an Association of Chief Police Officers-backed organisation which tests the effectiveness of vehicle security devices for older cars and publicises details of approved products; and also the Vehicle Security Installation Board, which publishes lists of approved installers of security products.

The Home Office also supports schemes designed to prevent young people turning to crime, and a great deal is being done in this area through motor projects and other diversionary schemes.

The Home Office has already taken action to deal with offenders. The Aggravated Vehicle-Taking Act 1992 demonstrates our determination to deal with the menace posed by those who take cars and cause damage, injury or death.

Work to reduce vehicle crime is informed by regular Home Office research; and is taken forward by the vehicle crime prevention group whose members are drawn from the police, motor manufacturers, dealers, the insurance industry, motoring organisations and Government Departments.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles were stolen in the United Kingdom for each of the last 10 years. [33576]

Mr. Maclean: The available information relates to offences of theft of a motor vehicle recorded by the police in England and Wales. This information is published in table 2.19 of "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 1993" (Cm 2680) and in table 6 of Home Office statistical bulletin 5/95; copies of both these publications are in the Library. Information on Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Secretary of State for each Department.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum seekers have committed suicide in prisons or detention centres in each of the last three calendar years and in the current year to date; [33347]

(2) how many asylum seekers are recorded as having committed suicide when not in detention, but after rejection of their asylum applications, in each of the last three calendar years and in the current year to date. [33348]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: No person who had sought asylum has committed suicide in a prison or detention centre in the last three calendar years or in the current year to date. Information is not available about people who have committed suicide after an application for asylum has been refused and who are not detained.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what method was used to monitor the results of the "No Self-Completion Questionnaire" exercise undertaken by the asylum division of his Department in recent months; what were the results of the exercise as regards time taken to process decisions and the quality of those decisions compared to cases dealt with under normal procedures; how many of the cases decided have been finally determined after appeals brought to the Immigration Appeals Authority; and if he will deposit a record on the exercise in the Library. [33346]

Mr. Baker: I am placing in the Library a brief report on this exercise; which includes details of the monitoring arrangements used. It produced a direct saving in the screening process for applications of between four and six weeks. All six appeals against refusal heard during the period of the exercise were dismissed: a further analysis will be carried out when more appeals have been heard.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33461]

Mr. Howard: Expenditure incurred on employing consultants was £2,160,000, excluding value added tax, in respect of the privatisation of National Transcommunications Ltd. and £784,000, excluding value added tax, in respect of the privatisation of DTELS—formerly the Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications.

Police Driver Training

Ms Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the total amount spent on driver training by each police force area in England and Wales for each year since 1990. [33487]

Mr. Maclean: Information collected centrally is related to the number of days spent on all aspects of driver and

traffic training, which includes training in matters such as traffic law, road safety, speed enforcement and accident investigation as well as driving courses. Details are set out in the table. Information about training costs is also given but is incomplete.

Total training days—driver and traffic training

Force	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*
Avon and Somerset	6,710	6,736	6,829
Bedfordshire	2,562	2,414	2,555
Cambridgeshire	587	1,074	2,053
Cheshire	3,547	1,843	1,429
City of London	952	697	706
Cleveland	2,259	743	618
Cumbria	1,496	1,383	1,416
Derbyshire	4,511	2,287	2,795
Devon and Cornwall	3,652	4,254	3,648
Dorset	1,524	1,804	1,603
Durham	2,135	2,643	2,136
Dyfed Powys	1,614	1,397	1,746
Essex	6,535	7,813	7,840
Gloucestershire	1,762	1,465	1,282
Greater Manchester	12,431	10,345	9,062
Gwent	1,513	1,291	n/a
Hampshire	3,944	3,407	n/a
Hertfordshire	3,698	2,160	3,260
Humberside	2,490	3,158	—
Kent	4,620	2,643	3,008
Lancashire	2,675	3,321	3,003
Leicestershire	2,270	3,011	2,521
Lincolnshire	1,617	1,675	1,562
Merseyside	5,504	6,608	3,601
Norfolk	2,652	2,406	1,887
Northamptonshire	2,466	2,389	2,130
Northumbria	5,178	4,410	4,535
North Wales	1,351	1,325	1,101
North Yorkshire	2,345	2,944	2,754
Nottinghamshire	4,030	3,151	2,477
South Wales	2,490	4,341	4,982
South Yorkshire	3,756	3,570	4,396
Staffordshire	4,677	4,982	3,936
Suffolk	1,715	2,115	1,916
Surrey	2,889	3,674	—
Sussex	4,465	6,843	—
Thames Valley	7,948	7,427	5,585
Warwickshire	1,153	1,678	969
West Mercia	2,236	3,375	4,014
West Midlands	13,016	9,980	10,777
West Yorkshire	4,532	4,304	4,920
Wiltshire	2,771	3,332	2,638
Metropolitan	28,149	31,783	33,886

Training costs—driver and traffic training

£

Force	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*
Avon and Somerset	1,494,009	1,321,638	1,453,522
Bedfordshire	—	590,523	677,496
Cambridgeshire	—	361,942	524,857
Cheshire	509,266	376,253	330,990
City of London	—	—	—
Cleveland	467,000	273,000	—
Cumbria	305,436	135,649	259,091
Derbyshire	929,463	—	577,794
Devon and Cornwall	655,897	855,765	877,513
Dorset	—	419,892	—
Durham	—	—	—
Dyfed Powys	263,400	231,600	—
Essex	1,964,589	1,300,000	2,007,391
Gloucestershire	350,784	293,538	276,670
Greater Manchester	—	1,251,773	1,207,188

Training costs—driver and traffic training

£

Force	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*
Gwent	287,498	209,866	—
Hampshire	—	858,621	1,114,196
Hertfordshire	—	—	—
Humberside	520,000	258,000	—
Kent	1,048,039	875,336	1,185,687
Lancashire	—	914,666	—
Leicestershire	253,713	—	405,633
Lincolnshire	—	474,400	—
Merseyside	1,594,039	1,827,821	1,413,639
Norfolk	571,500	519,700	453,800
Northamptonshire	—	441,661	431,128
Northumbria	—	—	968,752
North Wales	—	—	121,569
North Yorkshire	433,570	533,890	550,200
Nottinghamshire	—	710,292	—
South Wales	644,808	840,145	961,465
South Yorkshire	—	—	—
Staffordshire	441,759	1,137,897	535,668
Suffolk	553,462	448	456,012
Surrey	864,700	969,000	1,002,000
Sussex	503,000	805,912	—
Thames Valley	—	1,761,828	1,380,992
Warwickshire	166,314	788,718	249,693
West Mercia	596,616	725,905	897,038
West Midlands	3,020,332	3,226,004	2,989,280
West Yorkshire	1,674,900	1,493,900	1,561,300
Wiltshire	47,620	303,448	392,890
Metropolitan	—	4,546,817	—

Figures for 1993–94 and 1994–95 are not yet available.

Trucks (Policing)

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed with the police *(a)* full time and *(b)* as part of their other duties to train traffic policemen in truck enforcement work. [33588]

Mr. Maclean: The information requested is not available. Training for traffic officers concerned with the enforcement of legislation on goods vehicle safety is generally provided by police officers acting as instructors. We are not aware that any officers are employed solely for the purpose of providing this particular training.

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have traffic officers or special units dedicated to enforcing truck safety; and what are the numbers of police staff who are dedicated in this way *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the past 10 years. [33583]

Mr. Maclean: The information requested is not available. Police officers assigned to traffic work are involved in many aspects of traffic law enforcement not solely the enforcement of goods vehicle safety legislation.

Deaths in Custody

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will define a "properly interested person" in cases involving deaths in custody. [33341]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: No. Under the present law, the determination of a "properly interested person" under the Coroners Rules 1984 for the purposes of any inquest is a matter for the coroner. The circumstances in which

persons may be interested in a particular case vary so considerably that I do not think that further definition is practicable.

Immigration Service

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to compare the performance of the Immigration Service at the different ports of entry to the United Kingdom. [33840]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The National Audit Office report. "Entry into the United Kingdom"—HC204—made a number of recommendations about the development of an indicator system to compare the performance of the Immigration Service at individual ports of entry. All the recommendations are being carefully considered and as a first step the Immigration Service has made significant revisions to its management information system to facilitate better use and easier comparisons of performance indicators. Further work is continuing.

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he is taking to improve passenger clearance times at ports of entry. [33839]

Mr. Baker: The Immigration Service has published service standards for passenger queuing times at all ports and airports, and monitoring exercises have shown that these standards have generally been achieved. Consistent with the need to apply effectively the immigration rules as set down by Parliament, the service seeks to introduce measures aimed at further improving this aspect of its work—often in co-operation with port operators and carrying companies. Recent initiatives include:

the introduction of new shift arrangements at certain ports to help match staff deployment more closely to predicted weight of arriving traffic, particularly during the early morning;

the development of fast track facilities at Heathrow terminals 3 and 4;

increased on-board coach clearance at Dover; and

special arrangements for tour groups at Heathrow terminal 4.

Foundation for Business Responsibilities

Mr. Robert Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff were allocated to the charity commissioners' second inquiry into the Foundation for Business Responsibilities; how long they spent making their inquiries; and what was the total number of man hours put into the investigation; [32057]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 18 May, *Official Report*, column *369*, how much money the charity commissioners found had been improperly paid to Marketforce Communications by the Foundation for Business Responsibilities; who was the individual responsible for these payments; and how much money this individual repaid to the charity; [32067]

(3) pursuant to his answer of 18 May, *Official Report*, column *369*, on what grounds the charity commissioners decided that some payments to Marketforce Communications by the Foundation for Business Responsibilities had been improper; [32066]

(4) which donors to the Foundation for Business Responsibilities were interviewed or corresponded with during the charity commissioners' second inquiry into the charity; and if he will place copies of this correspondence in the Library; [32056]

(5) how many witnesses were interviewed by the charity commission during its second investigation into the Foundation for Business Responsibilities; and if he will list them. [32058]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Details of persons written to or interviewed by the Charity Commission during an investigation are a matter for the Charity Commission. The commission's correspondence files are confidential, particularly those relating to investigations cases where disclosure may discourage third parties from providing information to the commission. Correspondence will not usually be disclosed without the authority of an order of the court or the consent of the correspondent.

The commission's second inquiry was conducted by one member of staff who, over a period of four and a half months, spent a total of 22¼ hours on it. The investigator was supported at times by senior staff. The duration of this support was not recorded.

During the course of the commission's investigation, the trustees of the Foundation for Business Responsibilities themselves acknowledged that some of the payments made by the foundation to Marketforce Communications were not justified having regard to the services provided by marketforce to the foundation. The commission was not party to any consideration of the factors leading to the trustees' decision.

During the course of the commission's first inquiry, £98,987.96 was identified as being improperly paid to Marketforce Communications. The former director of the foundation, Michael Ivens, authorised the payments. He repaid the money to the charity.

Prison Governors (Bonus Scheme)

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement outlining how the bonds scheme for prison governors works. [32251]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. George Howarth, dated 13 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about how the bonus scheme for prison governors works.

The Special Bonus Scheme applies to all staff in the Prison Service and Home Office, including governor grades. Special bonuses are used as an exceptional measure to give prompt and tangible recognition for outstanding performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations which may arise during periods of exceptional pressure. In the financial year 1994/95 fourteen such awards were given to prison governors.

More usually, governor grades earn performance related pay based on movement up an agreed scale on the basis of the annual performance assessment by their line manager.

Prisoners (Home Leave Refusals)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has been the number of home leaves of prison inmates that have been refused due to the fact that victims object to such home leave; and if he will make a statement. [31373]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 13 July 1993:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the number of home leaves of prison inmates that have been refused due to the fact that the victims object to such home leave.

Last November the Home Secretary announced new arrangements to replace the existing home leave and temporary release schemes for prisoners. The new system of release on temporary licence came into effect on 25 April followi..g changes made to the Prison Rules. A new system of data collection is being established to monitor the operation of the new system but information about victim concerns will not be recorded centrally because, in most cases any decision to refuse an application would be based on a variety of factors and not solely because of victim representations. Under the new arrangements, governors are required, within the risk assessment process for considering applications for release on temporary licence, to take full account of any concern expressed by victims. However, victims do not generally have any power to veto the release of prisoners on temporary licence, except where the victim is in the home and their wishes must be respected.

The Victims Helpline which opened last December had received 186 calls by 29 June, of which 73 were enquiries and 113 were representations. These were passed to the appropriate prison for consideration. Information about the nature of the individual representations and whether they led to a refusal of release on temporary licence is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) how many disability living allowance appeals were received by his Department concerning *(a)* a review requested within three months of the original decision and *(b)* a review requested at any time; and in each case, how many appeals were successful, in each of the years 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95; [33031]

(2) how many claims for disability living allowance were received by his Department in each of the years 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95; [33027]

(3) how many requests for a review within three months of a refusal to award disability living allowance were received by his Department in each of the years 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95; how many of these requests were refused; and how many of the reviews resulted in the original decision being revised; [33029]

(4) how many requests for a review made at any time concerning refusal of an award of disability living allowance were received by his Department in each of theyears 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95; how many of these requests were refused; and how many of the reviews resulted in the original decision being revised; [33030]

(5) how many awards of disability living allowance were made in each of the years 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33028]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The information is not available in the format requested for all the questions. Available information is in the tables.

Disability living allowance claims and awards

Thousands

Number	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Claims received	744	435	504
Awards made	432	223	233

Note:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Claims received in one year may not be decided in the same year.

Source:
Analytical Service Division: 100 per cent. data.

Disability living allowance review of claims

Thousands

Number	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Review within three months			
Received	79	133	154
Decided	40	158	146
Successful	17	64	61
Review requested at any time			
Received	97	271	330
Decided	46	293	317
Successful	20	135	154

Notes
1. Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Claims decided in one year may not be reviewed in the same year.
3. Request for review may be about the rate or length of award as well as whether or not an award was made.
4. A decision may be revised because the claimant has provided additional evidence on review or because the claimant'scondition has deteriorated.
5. A review at any time includes reviews requested within three months of the original decision.

Source:
Analytical Service Division: 100 per cent. data.

Disability living allowance appeals

Thousands

Numbers	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Received	7	30	29
Successful	0	10	16

Notes:
1. Reviews decided in one year may not be heard on appeal in the same year.
2. An appeal may be about the rate or length of award as well as whether or not an award was made.
3. A decision may be revised on appeal because the claimant has provided additional evidence or because the claimant's condition has deteriorated.

Sickness, Disability and Disablement Benefits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the latest monthly count of claimants drawing any one of the sickness, disability or disablement benefits. [33141]

Mr. Burt: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the table:

Benefit	*Numbers in receipt*	*Latest data*
Attendance Allowance[1]	996,000	March 1994
Disability Living Allowance[2]	1,541,000	May 1995
Disability Working Allowance[3]	5,202	January 1995
Industrial Injuries Benefit[4]	209,000	April 1993
Invalidity Benefit[5,12]	1,580,000	April 1993
Pneumoconiosis, Byssinosis, and Miscellaneous Diseases Benefit Scheme[6]	331	June 1995
Reduced Earnings Allowance/Retirement Allowance[7]	155,000	April 1993
Sickness Benefit[8,12]	147,000	April 1993
Severe Disablement Allowance[9]	316,000	April 1993
War Disablement Benefit[10]	260,297	March 1995
Workmens Compensation Supplementation Scheme[11]	870	June 1995

Figures rounded to the nearest thousand other than those based on a 100 per cent. count of cases.

[1] Based on 100 per cent. count of cases, adjusted by an annual sampling exercise.

[2] Based on five per cent. sample.

[3] Based on 100 per cent. count.

[4] Rated up from ten per cent. sample with an allowance for late returns. The figure quoted related to the number of assessment in payment and not recipients. A person may be in receipt of more than one pension.

[5] Based on one per cent. sample.

[6] Based on 100 per cent. count of cases.

[7] Rated up from a ten per cent. sample with an allowance for late returns. The figure quoted relates to the number of allowances in payment and not recipients. A person may be in receipt of more than one allowance.

[8] Based on a one per cent. sample.

[9] Based on one per cent. sample.

[10] Based on 100 per cent. count of cases.

[11] Based on 100 per cent. count of cases.

[12] Replaced by Incapacity benefit from 13 April 1995.

Social Fund

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many *(a)* loans and *(b)* grants had been made in each region by the social fund in the last year for which figures are available. [32829]

Mr. Roger Evans: The administration of the social fund is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mr. Ian Magee to Mr. Jim Cunningham dated 12 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the number of Social Fund loans and grants made in each region in the last year for which figures are available.

With the creation of the Benefits Agency in April 1991, offices were grouped into Districts. These were then grouped into Area Directorates within three Territorial Directorates.

I have therefore provides, at Annex A, the information requested by Area Directorate for the financial year 1994–95.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Annex A: Number of community care grants and loans awarded in the Benefits Agency area directorates during the financial year 1994–95

Territory and area directorate	*Grant awards*	*Loan awards*
Scotland and Northern		
Tyne Tees	18,734	101,582
South Yorkshire and Humberside	17,542	93,609
North and West Yorkshire	11,783	82,189
Glasgow and Paisley	16,238	101,581
North, Central and West Scotland	17,974	76,117
East Scotland	10,047	66,912
Territory total	92,318	521,990
Southern		
Anglia	12,802	66,188
Chilterns	11,014	70,841
South London and West Sussex	9,678	66,770
West Country	16,792	93,515
Essex and East London	13,192	73,637
South East	11,551	81,904
Wessex	10,543	73,138
Territory total	85,572	525,993
Wales and Central		
East Midlands	13,078	74,587
Midlands South West	12,563	61,408
West Mercia	15,814	77,079
Wales	20,860	88,708
Merseyside	17,456	100,879
Greater Manchester	14,693	91,676
Lancashire and Cumbria	12,263	76,961
Territory total	106,727	571,298
National total	284,617	1,619,281

Information Technology Services Agency Data Centres

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the value of each of the bids received for the four ITSA data centres. [33164]

Mr. Burt: It is not normal practice for commercially sensitive information to be made available in this manner.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if the EDS bids for lots E and F were the lowest; and if he will make a statement. [33167]

Mr. Burt: All suppliers' bid for lots E and F were evaluated in accordance with an approved process covering financial and non-financial aspects. The EDS bids for the lots were the lowest bids received.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what assessment he has made as to whether the purchase by EDS of all four DSS computer centres threatens security of supply and on-going competition; and if he will make a statement. [33168]

Mr. Burt: The decision to award all data centre services work to EDS was made after a rigorous technical, financial and business evaluation in full accord with EC services directive 92/50/EEC. The contractual agreement allows the Department of Social Security to market test any segment of the awarded business if, in its judgment,

competitive prices are not being maintained. In those circumstances, the Department may award business to another supplier.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list the contracts his Department has with the computer company EDS. [33176]

Mr. Burt: The following contracts are currently held with EDS: area computer centre facilities management—a contract to manage the area computer centre at Norcross, Blackpool; Child Support Agency, technical services agreement—development of Child Support Agency computer system; Child Support Agency live support—maintenance of child support agency computer system; framework agreement for computer and related services—consultancy support; Focus' 95—outsourcing contract for data centre services elements of ITSA's service delivery. This includes management of the area computer centre at Norcross, Blackpool.

TRANSPORT

Long-distance Haulage Industry

Mr. Rendel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the value to Britain's invisible exports of the long-distance haulage industry. [32570]

Mr. Norris: In 1994, it is estimated that UK road hauliers contributed £520 million to UK invisible exports.

A3 Trunk Road Works

Mr. David Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he now expects the A3 trunk road works in the region of Guildford to be completed; what penalty clauses are in operation for time overruns; and what compensation will be paid to those businesses which have suffered a prolonged downturn in custom as a result of the roadworks and consequent delays; [33643]

(2) what studies he has made of the traffic delays caused during 1995 by the A3 roadwork operations in the Guildford region; what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the conduct of the contactors with the local authorities and with the signposting and provision of information to motorists; and if he will make a statement. [33642]

Mr. Watts: These are operational matters for the highways agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to my right hon. Friend.

Letter from Lawrie Haynes to Mr. David Howell, dated 17 July 1995:

The Minister for Railways and Roads, Mr John Watts, has asked me to write to you in reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about roadwork on the A3 at Guildford.

No studies as such, have been made of the traffic delays caused during 1995 by these roadwork. Traffic conditions are, of course, being watched closely by operational staff supervising the contract.

Our agents, Surrey County Council, are monitoring carefully, the performance and conduct of the contractor as part of their contract supervision role. It would not be appropriate to comment further on this prior to the completion and final settlement of the contract.

We are satisfied with the adequacy of the signposting which extends from the M3 at Winchester to the M25 junction at Wisley. Information to the public has been given a high priority. A full press briefing was held before the start of works and frequent television and local radio interviews have been held as works have progressed.

Provided no unavoidable delays occur, the works are expected to be completed by the end of July. The contract is of the lane rental type which provides for the contractor to be charged £20,000 for every day he overruns the contract completion date, as adjusted for any delays caused by factors outside his control. The contract also provides for the payment to the contractor of a bonus for early completion.

There is no provision at law for compensation for loss of business because of changes in traffic arising from roadworks.

Rail Services (Support Payments)

Mr. McLeish: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list for each train operation unit or company, the support payments made to the Director of Passenger Rail Franchising to British Rail, under section 52 of the Railways Act 1993. [34207]

Mr. Watts: The Director of Passenger Rail Franchising is currently negotiating with the British Railways Board the level of support for passenger rail services, under section 52 of the Railways Act 1993, appropriate of reach train operating unit or company in the current financial year. I will write to the hon. Member when the level of support has been agreed and will place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Four-wheel Drive Off-road Vehicles

Mr. William Powell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what are the main conclusions of his Department's research collating figures involving four-wheel drive off-road vehicles with particular reference to *(a)* the period of survey and *(b)* the total number of accidents in which such vehicles were involved, indicating the proportion of total accidents constituted by this figure. [34040]

Mr. Norris: Personal injury road accident data obtained by the police and reported to the Department using the STATS19 accident report form show that in 1994, four-wheel off-road vehicles were known to be involved in approximately 3,400 accidents, a figure which constitutes 1.5 per cent. of the total number of accidents.

Mr. William Powell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the four-wheel drive off-road vehicles involved in accidents collated in his Department's research were fitted with bull-bars; how many pedestrian-only accidents involving *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were recorded, indicating the vehicle's speed at the time of the accident; how many involved pedestrian deaths in respect of *(a)* and *(b);* and if he will indicate the numbers of (i) cars and (ii) light commercial vehicles involved. [34041]

Mr. Norris: The information requested is not available. The Transport Research Laboratory is currently analysing the accidents identified by the police during 1994 which involved a vehicle fitted with a bull bar. Its report is expected to answer questions as far as possible.

British Rail (Catering Products)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies have been shortlisted to supply British Rail with catering products; and if he will make a statement on what the contract is worth and what it entails. [34084]

Mr. Watts: The supply of catering products to British Rail and the details of any relevant contractual arrangements are commercial matters for the British Railways Board.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if it remains his policy that the channel tunnel rail link will be built only within the route and limits of deviation specified in the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill and in the documents listed in that Bill. [34134]

Mr. Watts: Yes. Construction of the route on the lands defined in the hybrid Bill is a minimum requirement of the competition.

Unsafe Vehicles

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* coaches and *(b)* heavy goods vehicles have been found to be unsafe in each of the last five years; and how many prosecutions have taken place as a consequence. [34142]

Mr. Norris: Information relating to numbers of prosecutions is contained in Home Office and Scottish Office statistics. The statistics show the number of offences and not the number of vehicles found unsafe. Consequently, the information does not distinguish between road vehicle types.

The relevant figures are shown in the table below:

	England and Wales		*Scotland*	
Year	*Offences*[1]	*Offences prosecuted in Magistrates court*	*Offences*[2]	*Offences Prosecuted*
1989	389,043	97,351	48,179	10,797
1990	383,715	89,419	47,477	9,897
1991	382,078	91,890	46,765	8,839
1992	381,232	93,504	47,775	7,980
1993	383,382	87,354	51,387	6,557

[1] These figures relate to circumstances where a vehicle or vehicle part has been found to be in a dangerous or defective condition including brakes, steering gear, tyres. They also include offences of using a vehicle in a dangerous condition and other related offences. The action taken includes prosecutions (shown separately), vehicle defect rectification notices issued, written warnings and fixed penalty notices issued.

[2] The offences covered are offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 and the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989.

Bus and Coach Safety

Mr. Tyler: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to expand the work of the Vehicle Inspectorate to achieve higher standards of bus and coach following the Operation Tourist crackdown; and if he will make a statement. [34083]

Mr. Norris: We are committed to increasing compliance with the safety standards for buses and coaches through an effective enforcement regime. The joint Vehicle Inspectorate and police Operation Tourist crackdown—which involved staff targeting tourist coaches suspected of having safety defects on holiday routes in the south and west on 8 July—demonstrates that commitment.

Regular roadside enforcement checks and checks of vehicles at operators' premises are an essential tool for increasing compliance with safety standards. Special roadside enforcement exercises such as Operation Tourist provide an opportunity to target one specific vehicle type. Moreover, an additional £100,000 has recently been made available to the Vehicle Inspectorate for enforcement work in relation to buses and coaches this financial year.

Transport Supplementary Grant

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which highway authorities in England had three or more new schemes approved for transport supplementary grant in his approvals for *(a)* 1994–95 and *(b)* 1995–96. [34133]

Mr. Norris: No authority had three or more new schemes approved for transport supplementary grant in either of these years.

Railways (Noise Insulation Regulations)

Mr. Jacques Arnold: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will publish the draft Noise Insulation Regulations for New Railway Lines; and if he will make a statement. [34569]

Mr. Watts: The Draft Noise Insulation Regulations for New Railway Lines and associated technical memorandum have been laid before Parliament today. The regulations are intended to provide equity of treatment as between those living alongside new railway lines and those living alongside new roads, who are protected by existing noise insulation regulations.

Although I fully expect developers of new railway lines to take all practical measures to reduce railway noise at source, there will inevitably be instances where this may not be possible or cost-effective.

The new regulations will create a duty, in the case of new lines and additional tracks constructed alongside existing lines, to provide insulation, or a grant for the costs of carrying out insulation works, when noise exceeds certain levels. They also give a discretionary power to offer insulation in the case of certain alterations to existing railway lines.

With a number of new railway projects either planned or under construction, it is only fair and proper that people who live alongside these lines should have a similar degree of statutory noise protection that their neighbours living near new roads have benefited from over the last 20 years.

In the case of existing railway lines, which now carry new channel tunnel rail traffic, noise mitigation schemes have been agreed between BR/Railfreight Distribution and Kent and Surrey county councils and the London borough of Bromley. Under these schemes, acoustic barriers are being erected at affected locations alongside existing lines to and from the channel tunnel. They are being jointly funded by the organisations involved, with Government assistance.

I would like to see BR/Railfreight Distribution actively entering into similar agreements with other local authorities whose areas might be similarly affected in future.

North Downs Line (International Freight)

Mr. Carrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to the use of the North Downs line as a route for international freight trains avoiding London. [34435]

Mr. Watts: In August 1994, Railtrack reported to me that the North Downs line was not a commercially viable alternative route. I asked officials to report to me whether there was likely to be any environmental benefits which could justify the development of the North Downs line at public expense. They have concluded that there are not. I have today placed a copy of their report in the Library of the House.

Coastguard Agency

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the Coastguard Agency has implemented efficiency savings; to what extent; and what further changes he intends to make before April 1996. [34028]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for the Coastguard Agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from C. J. Harris to Ms Joan Walley, dated 13 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Transport has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question as the question deals with an operational matter, for which I have responsibility as Chief Executive.

PO 2343/94/95 We were successful in meeting our 3% running costs efficiency target by means of:
—rationalising the accommodation and common services provision in HQ;
—reductions in administrative staff, following a staff inspection, leading to a more effective HQ support organisation;
—reducing property maintenance cost;
—reducing IT maintenance costs;
—reducing administrative costs.

Further efficiency measures for 1995–96 are detailed in our Business Plan and are currently under consideration.

Vehicle Inspectorate

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what was the annual basic pay for traffic examiners, senior traffic examiners and vehicle examiners in each year since 1984; [33586]

(2) what were the numbers of immediate and delayed prohibitions imposed by the Vehicle Inspectorate on trucks for each year since 1984; [33582]

(3) how many hours were lost in Vehicle Inspectorate enforcement for each year since 1984 because police resources could not be provided; [33584]

(4) how many staff are employed within the Vehicle Inspectorate *(a)* full time and *(b)* as part of their other duties to train (i) traffic examiners and (ii) vehicle examiners; [33587]

(5) how many senior traffic examiners were employed for each year since 1984; [33585]

(6) what targets the Vehicle Inspectorate has had regarding enforcement for each year since 1984; [33589]

(7) how much was spent on vehicle examiners and traffic examiners, not including testing station staff, for each year since 1984. [33581]

Mr. Norris: These are operational matters for the Vehicle Inspectorate agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ron Oliver to Ms Joan Walley, dated 13 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions on our enforcement activities.

The number of immediate and delayed prohibitions on HGVs since 1984 is shown in the attached Annex A. Early information about the number of unproductive hours (attendance hours) resulting from unexpected withdrawal of police resources was provided in my reply to PQ 482/94/95 on 18 January. Discussions with police are continuing over delivery of support throughout the country and how this should continue to be monitored.

Details of the Vehicle Inspectorate's targets are published each year in its Business Plan and are available from the House of Commons library. These have been issued since 1989.

The additional £350,000 funding which has been made available to VI, together with other decisions on additional work, means that we are currently recruiting more traffic and vehicle examiners. My reply to you of 26 June (ref PQ 1939/94/95) gave general details of the number of traffic and vehicle examiners being recruited across the Vehicle Inspectorate to increase complement, cover anticipated retirements and substantially fill current temporary posts.

There are 4 full and 8 part time trainers involved with internal training from VI staff. A proportion but not all of their work would be devoted to traffic and vehicle examiner training.

Annex B provides details of pay ranges for traffic examiners, senior traffic examiners and vehicle examiners for the past 3 years. There is no basic rate of pay; progression through the pay spine is related to performance markings in the annual staff reports. We do not hold details of pay ranges prior to 1991.

Annex C provides details of the number of senior traffic examiners for the last 4 years. The Vehicle Inspectorate did not take on traffic enforcement activities until 1991.

Annex A: Immediate and delayed prohibitions issued to heavy goods vehicles for roadworthiness defects

Year	All prohibitions	
	Immediate	Delayed
1984–85	3,619	6,956
1985–86	5,545	8,477
1986–87	4,260	5,331
1987–88	7,693	11,727
1988–89	7,774	10,446
1989–90	7,816	9,433
1990–91	9,229	10,615
1991–92	9,827	10,788
1992–93	11,041	11,040
1993–94	10,834	11,426
1994–95	11,516	11,788

Annex B: National pay 1991–1993

Year	TE	STE	PTO
1993	Min—£11,208	Min—£14,126	Min—£11,766
	Std[1]—£14,307	Std[1]—£16,835	Std[1]—£16,168
1992	Min—£11,097	Min—£14,022	Min—£11,592
	Std[1]—14,165	Std[1]—£16,668	Std[1]—£15,929
1991	Min—£10,444	Min—£13,332	Min—£11,146
	Std[1]—£13,605	Std[1]—£16,009	Std[1]—£15,316

[1] These figures are the "Standard" pay which staff in these grades will reach before the upper levels of performance-related pay apply.

Annex C: Total number of STEs from 1992–95

Date	Total number of STEs
31 May 1995	24
25 May 1994	25
30 April 1993	30
31 May 1992	35

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33449]

Mr. Norris: Gross voted expenditure since 1980 by the Department on the employment of consultants on privatisation programmes involving the Department, and other costs associated with these privatisations, has been some £122 million.

Aviation (Safety Recommendations)

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 31 March, *Official Report*, columns *830–31*, if he will make a statement on the outcome of the discussions between the Civil Aviation Authority and the joint aviation authorities at the meeting which was due to be held in April on the issue of the lack of an existing system whereby the joint aviation authorities can respond as a body to safety recommendations raised by national investigating authorities. [31642]

Mr. Norris *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* It was agreed that the existing International Civil Aviation Organisation system for receiving and responding to safety recommendations remains appropriate and effective. Under ICAO, responsibility for continue airworthiness rests with the state of design. This remains the case where certification is against a Joint Aviation Authorities harmonised code adopted by that state. Should the recommendation affect a JAA code, the state of design would normally refer the issue to the JAA; the JAA would close their action by confirming any resultant change made to the code.

Midland Metro

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 6 March 1995, column *57*, what assessment he has made of how much more local funding is necessary before the Government release the funding they have promised for the midland metro line; how many jobs will be created by the new line; what other such rail lines are planned for the west midlands; and what percentage of funding for the midland metro line will come from the local area, and how much will come from the Government.

Mr. Norris: After considering proposals for funding from local authorities in the west midlands, I am pleased to announce that we are now satisfied with the level of local funding being provided for this project. I can therefore confirm that the Government will provide £80 million of funding, as requested by the local authorities. Together with the local contribution and the funding expected to be provided by the European regional development fund, this provides sufficient funding for the scheme to go ahead.

Midland metro line one is excellent news for travellers in the west midlands; it will be good for the environment and provide motorists with an alternative form of transport in a congested corridor.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Sunderland, South (Mr. Mullins) of 23 May, *Official Report*, column *534*, if he will define the nature of behavioural conditions that can be applied to civil servants. [34205]

Mr. Horam: The business appointment rules for Crown servants make provision for applications by civil servants to take up new employment after they leave the service to be approved subject to behavioural conditions, which may include an absolute or qualified ban on involvement of the applicant in dealing between the prospective employer and the Government, or a ban on involvement by the applicant in dealings between the prospective employer and a named competitor or competitors of that employer. If a behavioural condition is considered necessary, it will be tailored to meet the particular circumstances of the case.

Prime Minister's Questions

Mr. Winnick: To ask the First Secretary of State if he will be answering questions on behalf of the Prime Minister when the latter is absent from the House. [34292]

The Deputy Prime Minster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him today by the Prime Minister.

Ministerial Duties

Mr. Winnick: To ask the First Secretary of State (1) what involvement he will have in Departments of state; and if he will specify the Departments; [34293]

(2) if he will list his responsibilities with particular reference to those he undertakes as Deputy Prime Minister. [34288]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave to the hon. Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger) on 11 July. *Official Report*, column *496-97*.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the First Secretary of State if he will list all the duties to be undertaken by the Deputy Prime Minister; and if he will make a statement. [34031]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the replies which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) and for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger) on 11 July 1995, *Official Report* columns *496-97*.

Ministerial Responsibilities

Mr. Winnick: To ask the First Secretary of State how he intends to account to the House for his ministerial responsibilities. [34038]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 11 July, *Official Report*, column *496*.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Winnick: To ask the First Secretary of State what is the number of staff who will be directly responsible to him; and if he will list their duties. [34289]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 11 July 1995 *Official Report*, column *496*.

Ministerial Accommodation

Mr. Winnick: To ask the First Secretary of State what ministerial accommodation he has now; and if he will also state the total amount of accommodation used by the staff directly accountable to him. [34287]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Gordon (Mr. Bruce), given today.

Information Leaks

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many leak inquiries in Government Departments there have been since 1990; what is the estimated cost of these inquiries; and how many individuals have been reprimanded or prosecuted as a result of these inquiries. [34253]

Mr. Freeman: It is not the practice of the Government to give information on such matters.

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, pursuant to his answer of 28 June, *Official Report*, column *713*, what considerations led to his refusal to supply the requested information in relation to Government leak inquiries; and if he will make a statement. [34352]

Mr. Freeman: It has not been the practice of the Government to disclose the details of leak inquiries.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

School Pupils (Expenditure)

Sir Harold Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what was the unit cost per pupil in each local education authority in 1993–94 for *(a)* nursery/primary and *(b)* secondary pupils. [34328]

Mr. Robin Squire: The table sets out for each LEA in England the net institutional expenditure per pupil in LEA-maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools.

Cost per pupil—Net institutional expenditure	*Nursery/ Primary 1993–94* £	*Secondary 1993–94* £
Corporation of London	3,587	0
Camden	2,047	2,716
Greenwich	2,009	2,583
Hackney	1,958	2,617
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,534	3,329
Islington	2,719	3,005
Kensington and Chelsea	2,394	3,266
Lambeth	2,666	3,296
Lewisham	2,058	2,614
Southwark	1,806	2,421
Tower Hamlets	2,656	3,157
Wandsworth	2,139	2,795
City of Westminster	2,592	2,739
Barking	1,790	2,355
Barnet	2,006	2,952
Bexley	1,573	2,341
Brent	1,633	1,835
Bromley	1,525	2,280
Croydon	1,793	2,309
Ealing	1,915	2,575
Enfield	1,768	2,531
Haringey	2,236	3,041
Harrow	1,913	2,439
Havering	1,636	2,290
Hillingdon	1,804	2,670
Hounslow	1,784	2,282
Kingston upon Thames	1,728	2,284
Merton	1,853	2,463
Newham	1,708	2,563
Redbridge	1,640	2,526
Richmond upon Thames	1,794	2,280
Sutton	1,639	1,978
Waltham Forest	1,821	2,526
Birmingham	1,572	2,330
Coventry	1,684	2,469
Dudley	1,490	2,098
Sandwell	1,681	2,349
Solihull	1,574	2,217
Walsall	1,672	2,281
Wolverhampton	1,357	2,300
Knowsley	1,485	2,243
Liverpool	1,586	2,613
St. Helens	1,605	2,315
Sefton	1,448	2,204
Wirral	1,552	2,299
Bolton	1,581	2,119
Bury	1,432	1,979
Manchester	1,547	2,328
Oldham	1,645	2,278
Rochdale	1,307	1,974
Salford	1,505	2,215
Stockport	1,466	2,310

Cost per pupil—Net institutional expenditure	*Nursery/ Primary 1993–94* £	*Secondary 1993–94* £
Tameside	1,442	2,095
Trafford	1,428	2,156
Wigan	1,437	2,141
Barnsley	1,539	2,101
Doncaster	1,425	2,022
Rotherham	1,723	2,271
Sheffield	1,573	2,119
Bradford	1,654	1,969
Calderdale	1,607	2,162
Kirklees	1,579	2,207
Leeds	1,647	2,164
Wakefield	1,577	2,150
Gateshead	1,664	2,252
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,697	2,187
North Tyneside	1,469	1,995
South Tyneside	1,463	1,948
Sunderland	1,509	2,114
Isles of Scilly	2,401	4,415
Avon	1,571	2,288
Bedfordshire	1,639	2,103
Berkshire	1,592	2,214
Buckinghamshire	1,735	2,286
Cambridgeshire	1,534	1,956
Cheshire	1,483	2,106
Cleveland	1,461	2,129
Cornwall	1,535	2,160
Cumbria	1,667	2,216
Derbyshire	1,600	2,214
Devon	1,503	2,157
Dorset	1,485	2,065
Durham	1,664	2,114
East Sussex	1,643	2,270
Essex	1,724	2,286
Gloucestershire	1,523	2,084
Hampshire	1,583	2,180
Hereford and Worcester	1,617	2,038
Hertfordshire	1,664	2,245
Humberside	1,621	2,257
Isle of Wight	1,598	2,027
Kent	1,397	2,079
Lancashire	1,669	2,347
Leicestershire	1,629	2,263
Lincolnshire	1,496	2,322
Norfolk	1,585	2,309
North Yorkshire	1,555	2,187
Northamptonshire	1,522	2,125
Northumberland	1,686	2,083
Nottinghamshire	1,653	2,381
Oxfordshire	1,765	2,191
Shropshire	1,577	2,354
Somerset	1,583	2,138
Staffordshire	1,534	2,078
Suffolk	1,673	2,190
Surrey	1,701	2,215
Warwickshire	1,555	2,420
West Sussex	1,579	2,467
Wiltshire	1,521	2,379
Total	1,630	2,245

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what will be the involvement of the Deputy Prime Minister in the work of her Department. [34035]

Mrs. Gillian Shephard: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minister gave to the hon. Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger), on 11 July, *Official Report*, columns *496–97*.

Departmental Ministers and Their Responsibilities

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, if she will list the members of her Front-Bench team and their responsibilities. [34039]

Mrs. Gillian Shephard: Ministerial responsibilities within the Department for Education and Employment are as follows:

Secretary of State Gillian Shephard has overall responsibility for the Department and its policies. In particular, she will have responsibility for the public expenditure survey and pay in the education sector.

Minister of State Eric Forth is responsible for the jobseeker's allowance; employment policy and benefit issues; labour market statistics; higher education: including content and quality, structure and funding, building programmes, and Higher Education Funding Council matters; the private finance initiative in higher education; student support, overseas students, and other student issues; European Union and international issues and the careers service/education.

Minister of State Lord Henley is responsible for the school curriculum and assessment; examinations and qualifications including GCSE, GCE A-Level, NVQs GNVQs and the review of 16 to 19 qualifications; performance tables; the Employment Service; education-industry links; special education in schools; people with disabilities; special needs training; and school transport. He is designated departmental Minister responsible for the citizen's charter; next steps; general legal questions and departmental purchasing.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Robin Squire is responsible for pre-school education; grant-maintained schools borrowing legislation; school effectiveness and action on failing schools; the common funding formula and the national funding formula; the private finance initiative in schools; local management of schools and school governor matters; teacher matters including training and supply, teachers' misconduct, the Teacher Training Agency, appraisal, pensions and the Teachers' Pensions Agency. He is also responsible for grants for education support and training; truancy, discipline and attendance; IT in schools and new technologies; departmental management issues; environmental and energy issues and research.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State James Paice has responsibility for post-16 issues including post-16 school organisation; further education, including content and quality, structure and funding, building programmes, and Further Education Funding Council matters; the Youth Service; adult learning/training; the private finance initiative in FE; training strategy and infrastructure and training and enterprise councils. He also has responsibility for regional government offices; regional and urban policy; inner cities and the single regeneration budget and section 11 matters.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Cheryl Gillian has responsibility for the development and implementation of the policy of choice and diversity in schools; GM school casework; five to 16 school reorganisations and admissions policies; city technology colleges; technology colleges and other specialist schools; independent schools; the assisted places schemes; school meals and schools capital issues. She also has responsibility for women's issues, older workers and equal opportunities.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment which of the former Department of Employment's responsibilities her Department has now taken on; and which Minister is in charge of each area of responsibility. [34044]

Mrs. Shephard: Ministerial responsibilities within the Department for Education and Employment are as follows. Those areas of work which were previously the responsibility of the former Department of Employment are shown in bold type.

Secretary of State Gillian Shephard has overall responsibility for the Department and its policies. In particular she will have responsibility for the public expenditure survey and pay in the education sector.

Minister of State Eric Forth is responsible for **the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA); employment policy and benefit issues; labour market statistics;** higher education, including content and quality, structure and funding, building programmes, and Higher Education Funding Council matters; the private finance initiative in higher education; student support, overseas students, and other student issues; European Union and international issues and the **Careers service/education.**

Minister of State Lord Henley is responsible for the school curriculum and assessment; examinations and qualifications including GCSE, GCE A-Level, **NVQs**, GNVQs and the review of 16 to 19 qualifications; performance tables; **the Employment Service;** education-industry links; special education in schools; **people with disabilities;** special needs training; and school transport. He is designated departmental Minister responsible for the citizens charter; next steps; general legal questions and departmental purchasing.

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Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Cheryl Gillan has responsibility for the development and implementation of the policy of choice and diversity in schools; GM school casework; five to 16 school reorganisations and admissions policies; city technology colleges; technology colleges and other specialist schools; independent schools; the assisted places scheme; school meals and schools capital issues. **She also has responsibility for women's issues, older workers and equal opportunities.**

I am taking steps to ensure the effective integration of functions within the new Department as quickly as possible. I have today written to education and training organisations inviting comments on an initial statement of aims and objectives for the new Department. This will provide a framework for bringing together all the policies and programmes designed to educate and train young people and adults and help unemployed people into work.

I have also invited urgent comments on proposals for the grouping of work within the Department, so that a top management structure can be put in place within the next few weeks.

I have placed a copy of my letter to education and training bodies, with the statement of aims and objectives and the proposed top management structure, in the Library of the House.

Special Needs (Legal Action)

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment on what authority the Treasury Counsel in the case of Emma Van de Velde *v.* Special Needs Tribunal—case number C01670/95—are seeking to establish that children should no longer be allowed to be parties to legal actions brought on their behalf against the decisions of local education authorities. [34247]

Mr. Forth: Appeals against decisions of the special educational needs tribunal are governed by the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992. That Act requires that the only persons who can appeal against a decision of the tribunal are the parties before the tribunal. The Education Act 1993, and the Special Educational Needs Tribunal Regulations 1994, make it clear that the parties before the tribunal are the parent and the local education authority.

Hackney Downs School

Mr. Hawkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will make a statement about Hackney Downs school. [34838]

Mr. Robin Squire: Hackney Downs school was inspected and found to be failing to provide an acceptable standard of education in August 1994. Hackney education authority then announced its intention to publish notices to cease to maintain the school from the end of July 1995. However, the authority voted at a full council meeting on 28 June 1995, against the professional advice of its officers, to withdraw these notices.

The resulting uncertainty has further weakened the school's position. The last Ofsted monitoring report noted that, although there had been some progress, GCSE results remained well below local and national levels, the standards achieved in lessons were inconsistent, pupil attendance was poor and a significant number of pupils displayed an unsatisfactory attitude to work. Meanwhile, pupil numbers have fallen to below 250.

In these circumstances, my right hon. Friend is concerned that the LEA and governors may not be able to implement their action plans effectively. She has, therefore, today sent a letter to the director of education of Hackney education authority and the chairman of governors of Hackney Downs school stating that she is minded to create an education association and to transfer control of the school to that education association with effect from 1 September 1995.

My right hon. Friend has invited comments on this proposal by Monday 24 July and will announce their decision shortly after that.

Speech Therapy

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what is the cost to each local authority in the United Kingdom of speech therapy services to children in schools; [33505]

(2) which local authorities in the United Kingdom make a contribution towards the cost of speech therapy services to school children; [33507]

(3) how many speech therapy posts providing services to school children are being supported by each local authority in England and Wales. [33508]

Mr. Paice: This information is not collected centrally.

The code of practice on the identification and assessment of special educational needs provides guidance to schools and local authorities in England and Wales. It explains that the prime responsibility for the provision of speech therapy services to children rests with the NHS, and states that schools, LEAs and the NHS should co-operate closely in meeting the needs of children with communication problems.

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what surveys have been undertaken by her Department, associated bodies or sponsored organisations into the incidence of difficulties with speech in the case of children in each county in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Paice: Neither this Department nor any associated body has undertaken or funded such a survey. The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Health, is, however, funding the National Foundation for Educational Research to look at examples of good practice in the delivery of speech therapy to children.

Technology Grants

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if she will list the schools that have been awarded technology grants since the scheme was introduced together with the amount awarded. [32470]

Mr. Robin Squire: The technology colleges scheme was launched in September 1993, with the first schools designated to start operating as technology colleges from September 1994. The 85 schools which have been designated as technology colleges are in the following list. Each school receives a one-off capital grant of £100,000, plus additional recurrent annual funding of £100 per pupil to help implement its development plan. Capital and recurrent support awarded to these schools in 1994–95 and 1995–96 totals some £20 million. The schools are also benefiting from private and charitable sector sponsorship totalling over £8 million.

Designated Technology Colleges

Aldersley High School, Wolverhampton
All Hallows Catholic School, Hampshire
All Hallows RC High School, Lancashire
All Saints Catholic School, Barking & Dagenham
Applemore Technology School, Hampshire
Archbishop Temple School, Lancashire
Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School, Lancashire
Baines School, Lancashire
Banbury School, Oxfordshire
Belper School, Derbyshire
Bexley-Erith Technical High School for Boys, Bexley
Bishop Stopford VA School, Northamptonshire
Budmouth School, Dorset
Cardinal Wiseman RC High School, Ealing
Central Technology College, Gloucestershire
The Chalfonts Community College, Buckinghamshire
Chalvedon School, Essex
Chatham Grammar School for Girls, Kent
Cirencester Deer Park School, Gloucestershire
Collingwood College, Surrey
The Cornwallis School, Kent
Cowes High School, Isle of Wight
Deacon's School, Cambridgeshire
Deanery High School, Wigan
Denefield School, Berkshire
Ercall Wood School, Shropshire
Fallibroome High School, Cheshire
George Spencer School, Nottinghamshire
Glyn School, Surrey
Greenwood Dale School, Nottinghamshire
Hanson School, Bradford
Hartshill GM School, Warwickshire
Heathside School, Surrey
Herschel Grammar School, Berkshire
Hugh Christies School, Kent
John Kelly Boys' Community School, Brent
John Kelly Girls' Community School, Brent
Kemnal Technology College, Bromley
King Solomon High School, Redbridge
The Kings School, Lincolnshire
Knowles Hill School, Devon
Lancaster Girls' Grammar School, Lancashire
Lancaster Royal Grammar School, Lancashire
The Latymer School, Enfield
Lincoln School of Science and Technology, Lincolnshire
Lodge Park School, Northamptonshire
Lynn Grove High School, Norfolk
The Merrill Community School, Derbyshire
Mill Hill County High School, Barnet
Moseley Park GM School, Wolverhampton
New Wellington School, Trafford
Norham Community High School, North Tyneside
North Cumbria Technology College, Cumbria
Northampton School for Boys, Northamptonshire
Notre Dame School, Sheffield
Ossett School, Wakefield
The Philip Morant School, Essex
Prospect School, Berkshire
Prudhoe County High School, Northumberland
Rastrick High School, Calderdale
Ravens Wood School for Boys, Bromley
Reading School, Berkshire
Reddish Vale School, Stockport
Saffron Walden County High School, Essex
St. Aidan's C of E High School, Lancashire
St. Alban's Catholic High School, Suffolk
St. Angela's Ursuline Convent School, Newham
Saint Bonaventure's School, Newham
St. George's Technology School, Lincolnshire
St. James's C of E School, Bolton
St. John's RC Comprehensive School, Durham
St. Peter's Collegiate School, Wolverhampton
St. Thomas More School, Gateshead
Sale Moor School, Trafford
Sawston Village College, Cambridgeshire
Sawtry Community College, Cambridgeshire
Senacre Technology School, Kent

Small Heath School, Birmingham
Soham Village College, Cambridgeshire
Tring School, Hertfordshire
Trinity C of E High School, Manchester
Tudor Grange School, Solihull
Uppingham Community College, Leicestershire
Walbottle High School, Newcastle
Wyvern College, Wiltshire

Internet

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assistance her Department has made available to *(a)* local assistance authorities, *(b)* individual schools within the local education authority system and *(c)* grant-maintained schools to enable them to obtain the necessary computer hardware and software to have access to the Internet. [32860]

Mrs. Gillan: The Department provides support for information technology in schools through grants for education support and training and in the case of grant-maintained schools through special purpose grant (development). These initiatives have enabled the provision of substantial numbers of computers which could be connected to the Internet. It is, however, for individual schools to decide whether to invest in such connections. A number of pilot projects are exploring the educational value of the Internet and the National Council for Educational Technology has published guidance on the Internet for schools.

Employment Issues (TUC Meetings)

Mr. Macshane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment when she plans to meet representatives of the TUC to discuss employment issues. [33521]

Mr. Forth: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State does not have any current plans to meet representatives of the TUC to discuss employment issues. However, in her new role as Secretary of State for Education and Employment, she is likely to meet representatives from many organisations, representing both employers and employees and discuss a wide range of labour market issues with them.

International Labour Organisation (Departmental Responsibility)

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if her Department will have responsibility for ILO matters. [33520]

Mr. Forth: Yes. Responsibility for the functions previously delivered within the Employment Department in this area will pass to the new Department for Education and Employment.

Mr. Padraig Flynn

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment when she next expects to meet Mr. Padraig Flynn, European Social Affairs Commissioner. [33518]

Mr. Forth: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State looks forward to renewing her acquaintance with Mr. Flynn at the next meeting of the Social Affairs Council in October, if not sooner.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33611]

Mr. Robin Squire: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for State of Employment on 19 May 1994, *Official Report*, column *243*. There has been no further expenditure on employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes.

ENVIRONMENT

Building Access (Disabled People)

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans his Department has made in respect of surveying consumer satisfaction regarding the impact of part M accessibility; and if he will make a statement. [33769]

Mr. Clappison: My officials are in discussion with representatives of the Access Committee for England on the possibility of it undertaking a study in the current financial year into how part M of the building regulations is working in practice in providing access to buildings for disabled people.

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when his Department will publish further guidance regarding planning policy in respect of disabled access.

Sir Paul Beresford: Some guidance on the provision of access for people with disabilities was contained in "planning policy guidance No. 1: General Policy and Principles". Further guidance is included in DOE circular 11/95, Welsh Office Circular 35/95: "The Use of Conditions in Planning Permissions", to be published on 20 July.

Sheep Dips

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what was the cost of the Health and Safety Executive's contract research report No. 74/1995 on the neurological effects of sheep dips. [33773]

Sir Paul Beresford: The cost of the research project on the neuropsychological and neurological effects of sheep dips was £212,222.51p.

Sewerage Infrastructure

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if the maintenance costs of the water sewerage infrastructure transfers to the statutory undertaker at no cost to the resident where estates transfer out of Government administration. [33970]

Mr. Clappison: It is open to any householder to seek to have private sewers adopted by the sewerage undertaker for the area. However, the maintenance of

drains between the house and public sewer and of water supply pipes between the house and the stopcock remains the householder's responsibility.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on his reasons for deciding not to introduce a national licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation. [34062]

Mr. Clappison: We have reviewed the arguments for and against introducing licensing for houses in multiple occupation. My Department announced last week new proposals to deal with HMOs. These will build on local authorities' existing powers. Full-scale licensing would be more bureaucratic and less flexible for local authorities.

Urban Developments Corporations (Grants)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how much grant in aid has been made available to each urban development corporation since 1981 *(a)* at current prices and *(b)* at 1987 prices. [34140]

Sir Paul Beresford: The amount of grant in aid made available to each urban development corporation between April 1981 and March 1995, *(a)* at current prices and *(b)* at 1987 prices, is set out in the table.

£ millions

Urban Development Corporations	*At current prices*	*At 1987 prices*
London Docklands	2,175.4	1,478.2
Merseyside	465.9	316.6
Teesside	308.9	209.9
Black Country	334.7	227.4
Trafford Park	204.0	138.6
Tyne and Wear	299.2	203.3
Bristol	87.8	59.7
Sheffield	97.6	66.3
Central Manchester	86.8	59.0
Leeds	64.6	43.9
Birmingham Heartlands	24.3	16.5
Plymouth	16.6	11.3

Actual grant in aid paid to urban development corporations has been adjusted in line with her Majesty's Treasury's GDP deflator indices. Current prices are 1995–96 prices.

Recycled Aggregate

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answer of 26 June, *Official Report*, column *535*, what guidance he has given to public sector clients to promote the use of recycled materials in the construction industry. [34329]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Government look to local authorities to examine how they can contribute to greater efficiency of use in construction contracts for which they are responsible. The guidance in minerals planning guidance note 6 asks planning authorities to identify alternative potential sources of suitable fill for trunk road schemes and asks highways authorities to make greater use of waste and recycled materials in their road construction projects. Department of Transport specifications already permit the use of certain waste materials in road construction and my Department has recently let a research contract to look at the scope for increasing such use. The reports on two further research projects into recycling of aggregates have just been published and provide some guidance to the construction industry on recycling possibilities. The Department proposes to establish an aggregates advisory service on a trial basis to draw on the results of the research and experience and to give advice to the construction industry and others on the recycling opportunities in order to reduce the demand for primary aggregates.

Health and Safety Directives

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is his policy with respect to qualified majority voting on EU health and safety directives; and if he will make a statement. [34184]

Sir Paul Beresford: Qualified majority voting has applied to health and safety matters brought forward under article 118a since the Single European Act, which was signed in 1986, came into effect on 1 July 1987.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment on what date or dates United Kingdom Ministers or officials sought to persuade the European Commission to agree a derogation for Sikh turban wearers from the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. [34182]

Sir Paul Beresford: During the negotiations leading up to the adoption of the directive on the use of Personal Protective Equipment at Work on 30 November 1989, a number of representations were made seeking agreement to a derogation for Sikh turban wearers.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment on what dates United Kingdom representatives attempted to secure a European Council minutes statement concerning a derogation for Sikh turban wearers from the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations; what external legal advice has been obtained in respect of the legal force of the unilateral minutes statement entered by the United Kingdom; if he will place a copy of the relevant documents in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [34185]

Sir Paul Beresford: An attempt was made to secure a minutes statement from the Council and the Commission on 15 November 1989 but this was not successful. A unilateral minutes statement was entered by the United Kingdom at the Labour and Social Affairs Council on 30 November 1989; details are recorded in the *Official Journal*. Our legal advice however, is that a unilateral minute statement, as opposed to one agreed by the Council or the Commission, would provide no defence to a challenge to any exemption for Sikhs.

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment on what date or dates United Kingdom representatives sought to amend the personal protective equipment at work directive in the European Parliament; and if he will list how each EU country, including the UK, voted in each relevant vote. [34183]

Sir Paul Beresford: UK representatives sought to amend the directive on the use of personal protective equipment at work when it was considered by the

European Parliament Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment in August 1989. A further attempt was made when it was considered by the European Parliament on 13 September 1989. Details of European Parliament proceedings are recorded in the *Official Journal*, which is available in the Library.

"State of the Construction Industry" Report

Mr. John Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he plans to publish another "State of the Construction Industry" report. [35116]

Mr. Gummer: The latest "State of the Construction Industry" report, produced jointly by my Department and representatives of the construction industry, has just been completed. Copies have been placed in the Library.

Planning and Guidance (Peat)

Mr. John Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he intends to publish new planning guidance on peat in England and if he will make a statement. [35117]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: We have published new planning guidance for peat in England today, in a new addition to the series of minerals planning guidance notes. This has taken account of the public consultation on the draft MPG in autumn 1994.

The guidance will ensure the conservation of important peat habitats and archaeological sites, which should be protected in development plans. Some of these habitats are areas over which the peat extraction industry has voluntarily given up valid permissions and conveyed the land to English Nature.

It spells out that any future peat extraction from new sites should be restricted to areas which have already been damaged by recent human activities and are of limited or no nature conservation value.

The guidance on the horticultural usage of peat and of alternatives sets a realistic balance based on the best current assessments. In accordance with the principles of sustainable development, the Government believe it is realistic to set a target for 40 per cent. of the total horticultural market requirements to be supplied by non-peat materials within the next 10 years. We intend to monitor—initially, over the next three years—what further progress is made in increasing the usage of alternatives such as through the greater use of recycled and waste materials.

The framework for updating old permissions for peat extraction, with particular emphasis on rehabilitation, has the support of the industry. The framework will have statutory force when the Environment Bill becomes law later this year, with the industry putting forward to mineral planning authorities updated schemes of conditions for their sites.

Copies of the new guidance note are placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Waste Incinerator (Shoeburyness)

Ms Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the permit issued by Her Majesty's inspectorate of pollution in respect of DERA's explosive waste incinerator at Shoeburyness; [33981]

(2) in which exempted category in the Environmental Information Regulations 1992 data on emissions from the explosive waste incinerator plant at Shoeburyness fall; and if he will make a statement; [33982]

(3) what plans does he have to monitor the effect of emissions from the Avocet explosive waste incinerator system at Shoeburyness on the areas of special scientific interest in the Colne estuary, the Blackwater estuary, Dengie, the River Crouch marshes and Foulness; [33984]

(4) what plans he has to permit the burning of munitions waste on open ground or a beach in the vicinity of the mid-Essex coast. [33985]

Mr. Clappison *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* I have today placed a copy of the authorisation and a variation notice, issued by HMIP, in the House of Commons Library.

The plant is required to meet the emission standards imposed on chemical waste incinerators. It will also have to comply with the EC directive on the burning of hazardous waste when this directive applies. Data on the emissions from the incinerator are not exempted from the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 1992 and will be placed on the public registers.

Prior to the granting of this authorisation, HMIP consulted English Nature, which was satisfied that the plant will not have an unacceptable effect on sites of special scientific interest in the local area.

HMIP authorisation requires the operator to carry out an environmental monitoring programme. Soil and grass samples taken from several locations around the incinerator are to be analysed for dioxins and heavy metals.

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment in what consultations his Department was involved in respect to the siting of the Avocet explosive waste incinerator system at Shoeburyness; and if he will make a statement. [33983]

Mr. Robert B. Jones *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The Secretary of State was not consulted on the location of the Avocet waste incinerator system at the Ministry of Defence testing and evaluation facility at Shoeburyness as there was no requirement under planning legislation to do so. I understand, however, that the Ministry consulted the local planning authority, Rochford district council, on the siting of the system, and obtained the necessary authorisation for its operation from Her Majesty's inspectorate of pollution. A second incinerator on the site has also been the subject of consultation with Rochford district council and the application for authorisation from HMIP is expected shortly.

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment on what grounds Shoeburyness was chosen for the siting of the Avocet explosive waste incineration system. [33986]

Mr. Robert B. Jones *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* This is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence.

SCOTLAND

Government Grant (Sewerage Services)

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much central Government paid to Scottish local authorities for the costs of sewerage services in 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96, and if he will break these figures down by authority. [33311]

Mr. Kynoch *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* No Government grant is paid towards the costs of non-domestic sewerage which are fully funded by the non-domestic sewerage rate.

Domestic sewerage is one of the range of local authority services which are supported by aggregate external finance, with the balance being met by the council tax. However, AEF is in general not hypothecated to particular services.

In addition, grant aid towards sewerage services was provided for the three-year period 1991–94 by means of the sewerage improvement grant scheme. The total amount of grant paid through this scheme to the authorities over the three-year period was £130 million and the allocation, by authority for the last year of the grant 1993–94 are given in the table.

Sewerage improvement grant 1993–94

	£000
Borders	1,284
Central	3,552
Dumfries and Galloway	2,125
Fife	5,983
Grampian	5,043
Highland	6,000
Lothian	5,628
Strathclyde	15,156
Tayside	6,376
Orkney	2,155
Shetland	1,072
Western Isles	626
Scotland	55,000

Forestry Commission (Woodland Sales)

Mr. Macdonald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list all Forestry Commission woodland sold in Scotland in 1994 by *(a)* property name, *(b)* county, *(c)* acreage, *(d)* sale price and *(e)* purchaser. [33756]

Mr. Kynoch: A list giving details of the areas of forest land sold by the Forestry Commission in 1994 is held in the Library of the House. The list shows the name of the purchaser and price paid where the purchaser has agreed that such information can be made public.

Wartime Administration

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what facilities for *(a)* home defence, *(b)* civil defence, *(c)* the wartime administration of the police or armed forces and *(d)* the wartime administration of Departments of central Government have been provided at Kincardine, and what were the costs of establishing or maintaining such facilities. [33316]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* There are no facilities at Kincardine on Forth established to serve any of the purposes specified in this question.

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what facilities for *(a)* home defence, *(b)* civil defence and *(c)* the wartime administration of the police or armed forces have been provided within the Connel Ferry; and what were the costs of establishing or maintaining such facilities since 1980. [33317]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The Scottish Office has never been responsible for any such facilities at Connel Ferry. Premises at Connel Ferry which formed part of the Home Office's United Kingdom warning and monitoring organisation, were sold following the disbandment of that organisation in 1991. No separate figures are available in respect of the costs of establishing and maintaining that facility from 1980 until it was sold.

Cardiologists

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is his latest estimate of the number of specialist cardiologists in post in the NHS in Scotland; and if he will list the numbers for each of the previous five years. [33328]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* There are 25 consultants—23.3 whole-time equivalents—in cardiology in Scotland at 30 September 1994. The figures for the previous five years were:

Year	*WTE*
1989	15.7
1990	17.9
1991	18.9
1992	19.9
1993	22.5

The figures do not take account of general physicians who have a special interest in cardiology.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33885]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: The number of contracts won by computer consultancy firms for work in my Department and its agencies in the last five financial years is as follows:

Company	*Contracts*
CCTA Consultancy Services	3
CGC	4
Class Ltd.	1
Anthony Cook Associates	1
Coopers and Lybrand	12
Delphi Software Ltd.	1
Dun and Bradstreet	1
Edina Software Ltd.	2
Ernst and Young	2

Company	Contracts
FI Group plc	2
Glenarch	1
Hoskyns	6
IBC	1
IT Counsel Ltd.	2
KPMG Management Consultants	3
Logica UK Ltd.	3
McKeown	1
Mouncey	2
Newell and Budge	1
Office Futures	3
Oracle Corporation	6
PA Consulting Group	1
Peter Hyde Consultancy	1
SAS Institute	1
SCET	9
SEMA Group Consulting	3
SPEC Systems Ltd.	1
Syntegra plc	3
Turing Institute	1
Usher	1
Valley Technology	1

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much *(a)* health authorities and *(b)* trusts have spent on consultancy services in each year since 1992, by region. [34160]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Unlawful Evictions

Mr. Chisholm: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list for each of the years since 1984 for Scotland as whole and by individual sheriffdom, *(a)* the number of reports made to the procurator fiscal in respect of private sector landlords carrying out unlawful evictions, *(b)* the number of prosecutions of private landlords for carrying out unlawful eviction and *(c)* the number of conviction. [31132]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Assisted Places Scheme

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the total cost of the assisted places scheme in each year since the scheme was introduced. [33077]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The information requested is as follows.

£ thousands

School session	Total cost
1981–82	799
1982–83	1,718
1983–84	2,454
1984–85	3,299
1985–86	4,217
1986–87	4,861
1987–88	5,310
1988–89	5,759
1989–90	6,681
1990–91	7,642
1991–92	8,706
1992–93	[1]9,758
1993–94	[1]10,127
1994–95	[2]10,486

[1] Provisional figures pending receipt of audited returns from a few individual schools.

[2] Estimated.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the amount paid to independent schools under the assisted places scheme to cover *(a)* revenue expenditure and *(b)* capital expenditure in each year since the scheme was introduced. [33078]

Mr. Robertson: The amounts paid to participating schools are the total cost of fees and other incidental expenses remitted to parents under the assisted places scheme. No direct funding to cover schools' revenue or capital expenditure is provided under the scheme.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many pupils are currently on an assisted places scheme; and what percentage that represents of the overall school population in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education. [33079]

Mr. Robertson: In the 1994–95 school session, provisional figures indicate that 3,041 pupils received assistance under the assisted places scheme. Under the provisions of the scheme, grant is available only for those pupils undertaking wholly or mainly secondary education and this includes a small number of pupils in primary or transitory classes in some schools. The total represents 0.9 per cent. of the overall school population in secondary education, excluding special schools. The same figure represents 0.7 per cent. of the overall school population in primary education, excluding special schools.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many children in the latest year for which figures are available were on an assisted places scheme whose households were in the bottom tenth of disposable income levels. [33080]

Mr. Robertson: Information on disposable incomes is not collected for the purposes of the assisted places scheme. Entitlement to fee remission under the scheme is based on gross family income.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the amount of grant *(a)* per head and *(b)* per pupil in local authority schools, for the assisted places scheme in the latest year for which figures are available. [33083]

Mr. Robertson: The average cost of an assisted place in school session 1994–95 is provisionally estimated at £3,448 per assisted pupil. That would equate to a grant of £13.92 per pupil in local authority schools.[1]

[1] Primary and secondary schools, but excluding special schools.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the number of places in the assisted places scheme in each year since the scheme was introduced. [33084]

Mr. Robertson: The information is as follows:

School session	Number of assisted pupils
1981–82	790
1982–83	1,450
1983–84	1,900
1984–85	2,265
1985–86	2,620
1986–87	2,626
1987–88	2,680
1988–89	2,695
1989–90	2,841
1990–91	2,861
1991–92	2,911
1992–93	[1]3,038
1993–94	[1]3,058
1994–95	[1]3,041

[1] Provisional figures pending receipt of final audited claims.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much subsidy went to each school under the assisted places scheme in each year for which figures are available. [33085]

Mr. Robertson: The assisted places scheme does not provide any subsidy to participating schools. Payments by the Scottish Office to schools consist of an allocation of fee remission grant and other incidental expenses. The schools may allocate individual grants up to the total to parents whose children have qualified for assistance under the scheme. Information on the total amounts of fee remission and incidental expenses paid to participating schools is available for school sessions 1981–82 to 1994–95 inclusive.

Assisted places scheme
Remission paid to schools

School	1981–82 £	1982–83 £	1983–84 £	1984–85 £	1985–86 £
Aberlour School	—	—	—	—	—
Albyn School	4,056	6,546	10,060	14,703	14,481
Ardvreck School	—	—	—	—	—
Beaconhurst School	—	—	—	—	—
Bellhaven Hill School	—	—	—	—	—
Belmont House School	4,021	4,475	2,930	7,164	16,394
Blairmore School	—	—	—	—	—
Butterstone School	—	—	—	—	—
Cargilfield School	—	—	—	—	—
Clifton Hall School	—	—	—	—	—
Craigclowan School	—	—	—	—	—
Craigholme School	8,001	17,187	23,140	23,982	27,663
Crawfordton House School	—	—	—	—	—
Croftinloan School	—	—	—	—	—
Dollar Academy	17,581	26,811	35,032	49,500	73,363
Drumley House School	—	—	—	—	—
Edinburgh Academy	14,556	34,367	36,956	56,385	82,777
Fernhill School	5,235	14,731	25,902	37,739	51,703
Fettes College	19,255	39,740	50,401	55,085	75,426
Fort Augustus Abbey School	14,177	26,701	49,720	75,730	94,679
George Heriot's School	51,441	108,647	172,549	237,383	315,382
George Watson's College	(included with Stewart's Melville and the Mary Erskine School —Edinburgh Merchant Co.)				
Glasgow Academy	12,974	24,668	46,380	58,644	69,250
Glenalmond College	10,222	33,046	60,467	92,503	104,790
Gordonstoun School	12,630	20,213	32,279	53,433	66,019
Hamilton College	—	—	—	—	—
High School of Dundee	52,690	110,612	142,685	185,286	235,525
High School of Glasgow	16,782	32,411	38,621	67,565	80,585
Hutchesons' Grammar School	50,880	86,933	117,366	145,719	166,283
Keil School	17,734	28,005	63,646	89,564	101,903
Kelvinside Academy	25,540	39,209	40,819	66,860	87,338
Kilgraston School	3,950	11,415	34,555	45,588	73,296
Kilquhanity School	—	7,637	13,161	19,928	29,537
Lathallan School	—	—	—	—	—
Laurel Bank School	21,649	48,347	71,483	74,662	94,672
Lomond School	10,184	18,600	25,632	50,660	63,696
Loretto School	8,367	22,594	38,676	54,650	58,547
Merchiston Castle School	16,630	41,492	63,293	88,882	131,780
Morrison's Academy	31,744	74,684	120,955	159,754	209,433
New Park School	—	—	—	—	—
Oxenfoord Castle School	—	—	—	—	—
Park Lodge School	—	—	—	—	—
The Park School	23,226	48,159	65,359	75,199	84,865
Rannoch School	6,891	16,710	29,402	38,132	49,794
Robert Gordon's College	5,753	17,831	35,160	52,979	65,429

Assisted places scheme
Remission paid to schools

School	1981–82 £	1982–83 £	1983–84 £	1984–85 £	1985–86 £
Rudolf Steiner School, Edinburgh	5,068	24,583	40,980	61,338	80,013
St. Aloysius College	35,978	87,715	128,323	149,494	176,376
St. Columba's School	21,829	43,705	46,961	53,797	68,110
St. Denis and Cranley School	6,644	9,822	14,838	21,663	32,495
St. George's School	—	—	9,951	16,935	23,898
St. Hilary's School	4,858	(Merged with St. Margaret's School, Edinburgh)			
St. Leonard's School	3,198	10,636	23,120	39,575	40,532
St. Margaret's Convent School	5,133	10,282	12,584	17,815	9,670
St. Margaret's School, Aberdeen	2,277	4,788	8,037	14,704	18,526
St. Margaret's School, Edinburgh	9,715	23,777	50,868	64,389	88,436
St. Mary's School, Melrose	—	—	—	—	—
Stewart's Melville College and the Mary Erskine School	205,911	449,158	528,924	663,598	853,818
Strathallan School	—	13,371	30,188	60,751	93,130
Wellington School	—	2,742	19,784	37,419	55,446
Westbourne School	32,243	76,135	93,199	119,304	152,174
Total	799,023	1,718,485	2,454,386	3,298,461	4,217,234

[1] Provisional figures pending receipt of final audited claims from schools.

Assisted places scheme
Remission paid to schools

School	1986–87 £	1987–88 £	1988–89 £	1989–90 £	1990–91 £
Aberlour School	—	—	—	17,501	27,331
Albyn School	23,200	26,852	31,116	41,376	51,747
Ardvreck School	—	—	—	2,777	5,785
Beaconhurst School	—	—	—	3,756	11,676
Belhaven Hill School	—	—	—	11,989	8,484
Belmount House School	22,037	30,926	36,917	46,918	49,083
Blairmore School	—	—	—	5,948	15,058
Butterstone School	—	—	—	6,348	12,624
Cargilfield School	—	—	—	10,425	17,547
Clifton Hall School	—	—	—	11,312	18,637
Craigclowan School	—	—	—	10,839	16,225
Craigholme School	34,044	42,158	51,317	67,548	85,924
Crawfordton House School	—	—	—	13,420	19,219
Croftinloan School	—	—	—	13,350	15,278
Dollar Academy	84,220	99,923	115,546	130,540	145,185
Drumley House School	—	—	—	12,828	15,116
Edinburgh Academy	92,105	94,858	113,014	134,944	166,508
Fernhill School	61,516	64,669	63,937	46,687	55,159
Fettes College	83,265	93,060	101,191	134,472	151,610
Fort Augustus Abbey School	111,336	110,700	107,450	105,345	134,983
George Heriot's School	353,230	397,293	427,484	486,666	531,754
George Watson's College	—	—	—	506,852	575,268
Glasgow Academy	70,723	79,471	74,168	89,605	107,175
Glenalmond College	111,574	124,965	143,697	145,745	166,502
Gordonstoun School	73,417	82,204	91,513	108,155	124,412
Hamilton College	—	—	—	12,591	15,725
High School of Dundee	270,669	309,400	330,043	387,281	454,337
High School of Glasgow	95,600	100,843	87,364	71,268	82,074
Hutchesons' Grammar School	183,088	205,125	223,351	255,370	301,004
Keil School	105,449	117,456	129,698	152,685	174,156
Kelvinside Academy	99,939	112,809	121,290	137,390	161,317
Kilgarston School	90,430	98,374	114,354	120,210	142,624
Kilquhanity School	30,091	34,354	39,002	41,146	41,398
Lathallan School	—	—	—	16,874	17,563
Laurel Bank School	113,962	128,202	151,674	160,687	161,490
Lomond School	80,848	88,898	97,986	105,236	101,807
Loretto School	74,226	81,711	94,012	118,549	139,628
Merchiston Castle School	149,477	167,206	180,744	218,085	249,586
Morrison's Academy	238,430	267,296	295,408	339,309	347,790
New Park School	—	—	—	7,888	10,017
Oxenfoord Castle School	—	—	—	11,987	25,838
Park Lodge School	—	—	—	1,089	—
The Park School	94,875	116,530	147,616	152,808	192,881
Rannoch School	63,169	68,081	77,343	101,463	119,766

Assisted places scheme
Remission paid to schools

School	1986–87 £	1987–88 £	1988–89 £	1989–90 £	1990–91 £
Robert Gordon's College	75,857	79,362	94,486	116,513	128,557
Rudolf Steiner School, Edinburgh	91,274	98,283	110,877	127,413	136,397
St. Aloysius College	212,434	231,765	259,995	295,900	330,424
St. Colomba's School	91,642	97,841	80,870	95,467	83,327
St. Denis and Cranley School	40,677	41,471	56,241	76,908	91,509
St. George's School	27,446	31,512	37,227	40,371	52,130
St. Hilary's School	—	—	—	—	—
St. Leonard's School	49,451	53,692	63,324	75,795	113,765
St. Margaret's Convent School		(School closed 30 June 1986)			
St. Margaret's School, Aberdeen	17,883	23,404	24,235	33,545	41,987
St. Margaret's School, Edinburgh	102,787	107,711	121,628	154,491	182,386
St. Mary's School, Melrose	—	—	—	6,030	9,936
Stewart's Melville College and the Mary Erskine School	1,006,057	1,054,024	1,089,782	647,807	686,814
Strathallan School	113,944	122,736	136,720	187,165	215,432
Wellington School	66,763	72,949	84,849	108,121	129,636
Westbourne Shool	154,015	151,647	151,073	137,705	172,304
Total	4,861,150	5,309,761	5,758,542	6,681,213	7,641,895

Assisted places scheme
Remission paid to schools

School	1991–92 £	1992–93[1] £	1993–1994[1] £	1994–95[1] £
Aberlour School	27,865	34,273	35,870	33,255
Albyn School	55,279	48,960	52,862	69,591
Ardvreck School	9,180	12,017	21,819	22,317
Beaconhurst School	18,589	30,475	41,530	28,461
Belhaven Hill School	9,798	7,921	4,862	9,789
Belmont House School	60,329	67,488	75,103	78,623
Blairmore School	11,202	5,931	(School closed)	
Butterstone School	18,283	8,297	17,236	23,817
Cargilfield School	19,128	19,557	18,002	12,897
Clifton Hall School	22,755	28,546	27,320	28,502
Craigclowan School	20,000	22,000	25,256	24,366
Craigholme School	93,539	108,118	129,501	134,235
Crawfordton House School	22,456	25,225	23,269	22,913
Croftinloan School	16,359	20,500	20,525	20,768
Dollar Academy	150,017	182,827	200,818	217,875
Drumley House School	10,049	10,790	9,259	6,244
Edinburgh Academy	191,777	209,884	224,913	232,894
Fernhill School	63,846	79,726	85,387	78,155
Fettes College	174,548	199,763	206,073	204,576
Fort Augustus Abbey School	170,400	139,717	(School closed)	
George Heriot's School	596,848	656,167	675,791	704,629
George Watson's College	639,740	676,825	675,093	751,969
Glasgow Academy	301,839	342,726	343,728	329,647
Glenalmond College	190,588	215,022	241,970	257,323
Gordonstoun School	144,094	160,982	170,862	182,064
Hamilton College	22,101	27,653	24,589	26,938
High School of Dundee	462,132	552,324	576,339	591,342
High School of Glasgow	102,007	127,101	136,969	146,057
Hutcheson's Grammar school	356,361	415,271	457,459	478,942
Keil School	198,819	223,879	227,968	241,248
Kelvinside Academy	213,982	266,852	306,797	319,404
Kilgraston School	164,519	185,757	191,918	190,586
Kilquhanity School	46,218	50,548	55,115	34,082
Lathallan School	19,869	25,720	27,769	28,244
Laurel Bank School	173,937	167,453	207,312	232,914
Lomond School	133,431	158,944	179,150	186,227
Loretto School	159,046	186,283	194,058	198,413
Merchiston Castle School	281,393	315,586	323,959	320,000
Morrison's Academy	410,247	432,107	432,788	417,900
New Park school	10,944	14,000	18,250	15,839
Oxenfoord Castle School	38,622	41,626	(School closed)	
Park Lodge School	2,598	621	—	—
The Park School	217,964	238,977	244,944	247,987
Rannoch School	139,248	158,770	173,910	179,336

Assisted places scheme
Remission paid to schools

School	1991–92 £	1992–93[1] £	1993–1994[1] £	1994–95[1] £
Robert Gordon's College	150,951	169,147	179,684	204,100
Rudolf Steiner School, Edinburgh	159,714	179,420	182,345	189,833
St. Aloysius College	380,134	433,125	443,787	472,009
St. Columba's School	115,778	121,144	123,652	117,231
St. Denis and Cranley School	99,836	120,775	124,529	128,909
St. George's School	64,959	85,210	91,186	124,054
St. Hilary's School	—	—	—	—
St. Leonard's School	131,000	147,826	168,453	166,791
St. Margaret's Convent School	—	—	—	—
St. Margaret's School, Aberdeen	42,501	53,678	58,813	53,310
St. Margaret's School, Edinburgh	213,688	241,220	254,540	271,812
St. Mary's School, Melrose	2,100	7,602	7,928	15,992
Stewart's Melville College & the Mary Erskine School	766,689	840,210	895,062	912,595
Strathallan School	243,000	272,640	294,506	299,342
Wellington School	144,149	183,265	196,446	199,388
Westbourne School		(Merged with Glasgow Academy)		
Total	8,706,445	9,758,471	10,127,274	10,485,735

[1] (Provisional figures pending receipt of final audited claims from schools).

Teacher Shortages

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* current and *(b)* future shortages of qualified teachers he has identified and in which secondary school subjects; and if he will indicate the extent of the shortage. [33081]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: Measured at national level there are no significant shortages of qualified teache's in Scotland in either the primary or secondary sectors. At local level, individual vacancies can sometimes be hard to fill for a range of reasons. Teacher education institutions are encouraged to work closely with education authorities to match supply to demand at local level. For the secondary sector, the Scottish Office Education Department recommends that up to three quarters of the annual intake to teacher training courses should be in specific subjects which have been agreed with education authorities as priorities in supply terms. Statistical bulletin Edn/B7/1995/2, a copy of which has been placed in the Library, sets out the most recent information on demand for and supply of teachers.

Teaching Qualifications

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the number of students in each secondary school subject who achieved a teaching qualification at a Scottish teacher training establishment in *(a)* 1994, *(b)* 1989 and *(c)* 1984. [33082]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The information is set out in the table.

Students achieving a teaching qualification

	1984	1989	[1]1994
Total	999	455	1,309
English	137	32	151
History	26	11	57
Geography	48	12	51
Modern Studies	7	13	51
French	48	21	103
German	16	3	34

Students achieving a teaching qualification

	1984	1989	[1]1994
Spanish	4	0	11
Gaelic	3	2	3
Other Modern Languages	3	0	4
Latin/Greek	4	0	7
Mathematics	124	60	147
Computing	0	19	57
Biology	23	24	56
Chemistry	47	31	49
Physics	39	32	70
Art	44	22	74
Business Studies	29	25	67
Home Economics	64	16	32
Physical Education	122	58	84
Music	57	22	68
Speech and Drama	20	9	16
Technical Education	91	17	73
Religious Education	39	26	42
Others	4	0	2

[1] Provisional.

School Boards

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* secondary, *(b)* primary and *(c)* special schools have boards; and what is the percentage of the total in each category. [33286]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The information requested is given in the table.

Number and percentage of eligible education authority schools with a school board at May 1994

Sector	Number of eligible schools with a school board	Percentage of eligible schools with a school board
Primary[1]	1,724	74.0
Secondary	376	92.6
Special	66	46.5

[1] Includes primary departments of secondary schools.

Pupil Expenditure

Sir Harold Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the unit cost per pupil in each Scottish local education authority for 1993–94 for *(a)* nursery-primary and *(b)* secondary pupils. [34326]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: Information on annual budgeted expenditure for each primary and secondary school in Scotland, and per pupil for each such school, is contained in reports published annually since 1993 by the audit unit of Her Majesty's inspectors of schools. A copy of the most recent report, "Scottish Schools: Costs 1993/94 and 1994/95", has been placed in the Library.

Firearms

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many thefts of *(a)* shotguns and *(b)* other firearms took place in each police force in each of the last five years from (i) domestic premises and (ii) from other premises in each police force area. [34190]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The tables detail the number of thefts in which the main firearm stolen was a shotgun or other firearm. The information is disaggregated by location of theft—domestic premises or other premises—and is provided by police force area for each of the past five years. For the purposes of this response domestic premises have been defined to be dwellings and farms and the "other" premises category includes, for example, shops, offices, factories, places of public entertainment and other locations. Thefts from motor vehicles have been excluded.

Thefts where the main firearm stolen was a shotgun

	1989		1990		1991		1992		1993	
Police Force	*Domestic*	*Other*	*Domestic*	*Other*	*Domestic*	*Other*	*Domestic*	*Other*	*Domestic*	*Other*
Central	2	0	1	0	1	2	6	0	0	0
Dumfries and Galloway	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	3	0
Fife	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Grampian	4	2	4	1	6	1	4	1	4	0
Lothian and Borders	4	0	15	0	5	1	10	1	9	1
Northern	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Strathclyde	19	0	12	1	21	2	14	7	14	2
Tayside	4	1	2	2	5	1	10	2	4	4
Scotland	34	5	34	5	41	8	46	14	36	7

Thefts where the main firearm stolen was a firearm other than a shotgun[1]

	1989		1990		1991		1992		1993	
Police Force	*Domestic*	*Other*	*Domestic*	*Other*	*Domestic*	*Other*	*Domestic*	*Other*	*Domestic*	*Other*
Central	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Dumfries and Galloway	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1
Fife	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Grampian	0	3	3	2	4	2	2	4	5	4
Lothian and Borders	7	3	15	3	11	5	10	9	4	2
Northern	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Strathclyde	6	2	13	3	11	9	13	9	17	13
Tayside	3	1	2	0	11	5	3	3	0	4
Scotland	18	9	33	9	40	22	31	28	29	25

[1] Excludes airweapons.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many homicides involving *(a)* shotguns and *(b)* other firearms have taken place in each police force in each of the last five years; and how many of the victims in each case were women. [34137]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The tables detail the number of homicides recorded in each police force area for the last five years where the main firearm used was shotgun or other firearm. Male and female victims are identified separately.

Homicides where the main firearm used was shotgun

	1989		1990		1991		1992		1993	
Police Force	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dumfries and Galloway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fife	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grampian	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Lothian and Borders	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Northern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strathclyde	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	0
Tayside	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Scotland	3	3	0	0	1	2	5	0	2	0

Homicides where the main firearm used was a firearm other than a shotgun

Police Force	1989		1990		1991		1992		1993	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dumfries and Galloway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fife	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grampian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lothian and Borders	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strathclyde	0	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	5	0
Tayside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	0	0	3	0	4	0	1	0	6	0

Allowances

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what data is held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS executive on expenditure on trust board and health authority members' allowances. [34143]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Financial data for health boards and NHS trusts are submitted to the management executive in Scotland in the form of annual accounts, monthly monitoring returns and annual business reports. From these it is possible to identify total remuneration expenditure for non-executive and executive board members collectively. Remuneration of the chairman and highest paid member is identified separately. Details of remuneration for the other members are provided in bands of £5,000 starting at nil. Details of the board members' allowances, notably travel expenses, are not specifically itemised and will form part of more general accounting data.

Clinical Negligence Claims

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what have been the costs of meeting clinical negligence claims in each region in each year since 1990. [34174]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: In Scotland, the regional functions of the NHS are administered by health boards. Given the small number of cases in certain health boards, it is not appropriate on the grounds of confidentiality to publish the information in the form requested. The total amounts of damages awarded and total legal costs, for all health boards and NHS trusts in Scotland for the years 1990–91 to 1994–95 are given in the table.

	Total amount of damages awarded £	*Total amount of legal costs* £	*Total* £
1990–91	1,161,430	165,650	1,327,080
1991–92	1,021,984	121,167	1,143,151
1992–93	1,056,660	158,967	1,215,627
1993–94	582,420	63,618	646,038
1994–95	[1]860,412	[1]82,589	[1]943,001

[1] Provisional.

Executive Agencies (Annual Report and Accounts)

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when the annual report and accounts of the Registers of Scotland executive agency will be published. [34717]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Copies of the annual report and accounts have today been laid before both Houses.

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when the annual report and accounts of the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency will be published. [34718]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: Copies of the annual report and accounts of the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency have today been laid before both Houses.

Monklands District Council

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whom he intends to appoint to conduct the inquiry into Monklands district council and if he will make a statement. [34719]

Mr. Kynoch: Under the powers conferred on him by section 211 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 my right hon. Friend has appointed Mr. William A. Nimmo Smith QC to conduct the inquiry. The formal terms of reference will be as follows:

> "To inquire into the question whether Monklands District Council have failed to comply with the duty imposed on them under section 7 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to make appointments to paid office or employment on merit and to report thereon."

The recent publication of Professor Black's report attracted widespread indignation and concern about the allegations therein. In the circumstances it is hoped that everyone who has relevant information will co-operate fully with the inquiry.

Water Authorities

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will announce appointments to the new Scottish water authorities and to the Water and Sewerage Customers Council. [34876]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: I can announce today the appointment of 29 members to the new public water authorities; their names are set out below. These appointments, together with those of the chairmen and chief executives already announced, bring the membership of two authorities to 12, the maximum permitted by legislation, and one to 11.

Half the appointments will go to elected councillors. Of the 14 councillors announced today, nine are independents and five are Conservatives. Five senior Labour councillors were invited to serve: all declined, in some cases publicising their decision in the press. One vacancy remains unfilled.

The rest of today's appointments bring to the authority a range of skills and experience of the water industry business or finance. The authorities are now well placed to deliver high-quality, efficient water and sewerage services and to attract additional new investment from private finance.

The three new water authorities are public sector bodies which will forge a partnership with the providers of private sector funds to produce the greatest benefit in terms of quality of service and value for money for the people of Scotland. This is a novel and imaginative approach and I expect that all involved will play their part in ensuring its success.

I can also announce today that Mr. Dick Douglas has accepted my invitation to become chairman of the new Water and Sewerage Customers Council. The rest of the membership will be appointed in the coming weeks. Mr. Douglas responded to the public advertisement for the position and as a former Member of this House is well known for his independence and vigour. I am confident that under his leadership the interests of customers will be ably championed.

Those appointed to the North of Scotland water authority are:

Denis Addly, Councillor Raymond Bisset, Councillor Joan Eastern, Councillor Nigel J. O. Graham, Andrew D. F. Lewis, Alasdair N. MacCallum, Councillor Olwyn J. Macdonald, Nicolas McAndrew, Councillor Donald I. Nicholson, David R. Paton.

Those appointed to the East of Scotland water authority are:

Disney Barlow, Robin Bell, Councillor Ian J. Berry, Councillor Ian Galloway, Councillor Tom Kerr, Councillor Pat McCafferty, Harry O'Hanlon, Sir Francis McWilliams, Roy Summers.

Those appointed to the West of Scotland water authority are:

Norman S. M. Berry, Councillor Mungo Bryson, Sir Robert Easton, John M. Goodwin, David M. Gray, Peter N. B. Kennedy, Councillor William Petrie, Councillor Robert R. Reid, Provost Leslie Rosin, Councillor Ian R. Young.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

National Physical Laboratory

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what progress he has made towards introducing private sector management into the National Physical Laboratory. [35049]

Mr. Lang: The intention to introduce private sector management to the National Physical Laboratory was announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Henley (Mr. Heseltine) on 14 April 1994. A detailed investigation to tender was made available in December to five bidding consortia selected from among those expressing interest. In May, the Department selected two consortia as shortlisted bidders and in late June, Serco became the preferred bidder for final negotiations. These are now complete and Serco, in collaboration with AEA Technology and Loughborough university as subcontractors for particular tasks, has been selected to become the contractor to manage the laboratory and deliver the Department's measurement programmes for the next five years. Serco, which will take over on 1 October, offered better value for money than either its nearest competitor or the benchmark of NPL continuing as an agency. All but a few of the laboratory's staff will transfer to Serco, which will purchase some of the assets of the laboratory. The DTI will lease other assets together with the buildings to Serco for the duration of the contract.

The contract includes incentives on the contractor to develop the business of the laboratory and to improve efficiency. The existing management have made substantial progress in these areas during NPL's period as an agency of the Department, but I am sure that private sector management will bring additional commercial freedoms and skills to NPL's work. The contract also requires NPL to maintain its status as one of the world's greatest metrology laboratories and as a centre of excellence for all aspects of measurement. I am confident that under commercial management the laboratory will be even better able to fulfil this vital role. As part of the arrangements to ensure this, the Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering have agreed to advise me on the maintenance of the long-term capability and standing of the laboratory.

London Commodity Exchange

Mr. Bayley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) if he will make a statement about the takeover bid for the London Commodity Exchange made by the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange of New York, and its implications for cocoa and coffee processing companies operating in the United Kingdom; [34317]

(2) if his Department intends to review the decision to sell the United Kingdom's share of the buffer stock of cocoa beans following the New York Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange's take-over bid for the London Commodity Exchange; [34313]

(3) what representations he has made to the Director General of Fair Trading in respect of the bid by the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange of New York to take over the London Commodity Exchange. [34318]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: If this is a qualifying merger, the relevant competition authorities will need to consider the takeover. If it falls to the UK competition authorities, the Director General of Fair Trading will advise my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade whether to refer the merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In giving his advice, the DGFT will take into account third party views and any other relevant factors.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what discussions Her Majesty's Government have had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* other Governments of EU member states about the take-over bid for the London Commodity Exchange. [34314]

Mr. Evans: None. If such a takeover fell to the United Kingdom competition authorities, then any plans which a company might have to acquire the London Commodity Exchange would be a matter for discussions with the Director General of Fair Trading who has a duty under the Fair Trading Act 1973 to advise my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade on whether any qualifying mergers should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which of the former Department of Employment's responsibilities his Department has now taken on; and which Minister is in charge of each area of responsibility. [34043]

Mr. Lang: My Department has taken over the former Employment Department group's responsibilities for industrial relations policy and legislation, pay issues, redundancy payments; and sponsorship of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service and the Industrial Tribunals. My hon. Friend the Member for Brecon and Radnor (Mr. Evans) will be responsible for these matters, and will report to me.

President of the Board of Trade (Salary)

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the present annual salary of the President of the Board of Trade. [34004]

Mr. Lang: My ministerial salary as President of the Board of Trade is £42,834 per annum. In addition, I receive a reduced parliamentary salary of £24,985 per annum.

Government Regional Office

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment his Department has made of the benefits to industry of opening the Government's regional offices; and if he will make a statement. [33554]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The Government offices for the English regions and the expanding network of business links provide single points of contact for local businesses on a range of issues.

Business Link

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *625*, in what circumstances he would relax the accreditation procedure for continued use of the Business Link brand. [33547]

Mr. Page *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* In order to ensure that all businesses have access to high quality support, there will be no relaxation of the accreditation standards. However, if the reasons for failure are unlikely to affect the service received by clients, the Business Link Accreditation Board will have discretion to recommend a temporary extension of the licences to use the Business Link brand, provided that the business link has effective plans for remedying the shortfall. The implementation of those plans will be checked at the next regular surveillance visit.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *625*, what options his Department has considered to ensure that small businesses have access to quality business advice if he accepts a recommendation from the Business Links Accreditation Board that their local business link should have its licence to use the Business Link branch withdrawn. [33548]

Mr. Page *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* Should an individual business link licence be withdrawn, agreement would be sought with a neighbouring accredited business link to provide the access to high quality support services.

Inward Investment

Mr. Morgan: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will give the latest regional statistics available of the share of inward investment projects coming to Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the regions of England; and what share Wales has received from the latest data available of all inward investment projects coming from *(a)* Japan, *(b)* North America and *(c)* Europe. [34249]

Mr. Eggar: My right hon. Friend the then President of the Board of Trade announced on 4 July 1995, *Official Report*, columns, *145–46* that a record number of 434 inward investment projects were notified to the Invest in Britain Bureau in 1994–95. The regional breakdown of this total is as follows:

	Number	*Per cent.*
Wales	50	11.5
Scotland	81	18.7
Northern Ireland	22	5.1
East	12	2.8
East Midlands	44	10.1
North East	38	8.7
North West	49	11.3
South East	37	8.5
South West	21	4.3
West Midlands	62	14.3
Yorkshire/Humberside	18	4.1

Wales's share of all projects coming from the specified countries was as follows:

	Per cent.
Japan	11.4 (5 of 44)
North America	11.8 (25 of 212)
Europe	13.6 (19 of 140)

All the above figures are based on numbers of projects notified to the Invest in Britain Bureau at the time of the decision to invest. Companies are under no obligation to notify their investment decisions and the figures take no account of subsequent developments.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33457]

Mr. Lang: I refer the hon. Member to the replies given by my right hon. Friend the First Secretary of State to his questions last year on 5 May 1994 and 16 June 1994, *Official Report*, column *604* and columns *428-29*. The Comptroller and Auditor General has not published any additional reports on privatisations undertaken by the DTI since then.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33880]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The information is not collected and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33861]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* Figures prior to 1992–93 are not readily available and cannot be provided other than at disproportionate cost. Due to the devolvement of budgets for computer consultancy, the following figures represent only the expenditure made through the central IT procurement section.

Year	*Thousand*
1992–93	6,212
1993–94	4,671
1994–95	4,137

It is not possible to provide expected expenditure over the next five years other than at disproportionate cost due to budget devolvement. Information available on forecast expenditure by the central computer section on consultancy support for corporate projects over the next three years is as follows—estimates are not available for the final two years:

Year	*£ thousand*
1995–96	1,181
1996–97	861
1997–98	824

Mr. Milburn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33892]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* This information is not held centrally and it cannot be provided other than at disproportionate cost. However, following an open tender procurement, the Department has set up framework agreements with the following companies enabling the Department's management units and agencies to call off computer consultancy support as required.

Admiral Management Services Ltd.
ASE Consulting
CMG Computer Management Group (UK) Ltd.
Coopers and Lybrand
Cray Systems Ltd.
CSS Trident Ltd.
CSC Computer Sciences Ltd.
EFD Total System Consultants Ltd.
Kermon Ltd.
KPMG Management Consulting
Logica UK Ltd.
PA Consulting Group
Parity Systems Ltd.
SEMA Group Systems Ltd.
Secure Information Systems Ltd.
Touche Ross and Co.
Triad Special Systems Ltd.

The agreements were finalised in August 1994 and cover a period of up to five years.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years indicating the companies concerned. [33422]

Mr. Lang: Each senior official and special adviser is required to make a declaration of his or her financial interests including company shareholdings. This enables the Department to prevent potential conflicts of interest arising. In the case of other officials, conflicts of interest are dealt with by their line management. Records are not kept centrally.

Aerospace (Outsourcing)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what estimate he has made of the value of outsourcing in the United Kingdom by Japanese companies working in the aerospace sector for each year since 1990. [33768]

Mr. Eggar: No such estimate has been made.

Tunnel Boring Machines

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many United Kingdom companies manufacture tunnel boring machines of the kind capable of boring the tunnels of the proposed channel tunnel rail link. [33819]

Mr. Page: We know of a number of United Kingdom manufacturing firms which make large tunnel boring machines. The precise type of tunnelling machines suitable for the channel tunnel rail link would depend upon the type of tunnelling methods chosen by they contractor after taking into account the ground conditions.

Loan Guarantee Scheme

Sir Michael Shersby: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what has been the effect of changes to the loan guarantee scheme announced since 1992. [32576]

Mr. Page: Since the changes that took place in April 1993 and July 1993, lending under the scheme has increased considerably.

In the financial year to 31 March 1994, 3,886 scheme loans were guaranteed at a value of £155 million compared to 2,342 loans at a value of £52 million in the previous year. In the year to 31 March 1995, 6,207 loans were guaranteed to a value of £246 million. This represents the highest level of lending since the scheme began in 1981.

We are currently guaranteeing over 600 loans a month.

British Coal (Recreational Estate)

Mr. Tipping: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement about the planned transfer of British Coal's recreational estate to the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation and to the National Playing Fields Association. [33118]

Mr. Page *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* It is the Government's objective that British Coal land currently in active use for sport and recreation is retained for those purposes.

I hope to be in a position to make a further announcement shortly.

PRIME MINISTER

West Midlands (Visit)

9. **Mr. Thomason:** To ask the Prime Minister what proposals he has to visit the west midlands and the Bromsgrove constituency in particular. [32466]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

Prime Ministerial Duties

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what proportion of his time he devoted to his duties as Prime Minister between 23 June and 4 July. [34202]

The Prime Minister: I was Prime Minister throughout the entire period in question.

Government Cars

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister what make and type of Government car is allocated to the Prime Minister; and what is the cost of this vehicle to the Exchequer; including the annual cost of the chauffeur. [34014]

The Prime Minister: I have been allocated a Daimler Majestic as my official car. The annual running cost, which includes a number of security measures, is some £100,000. This also includes maintenance and the cost of a chauffeur.

French Nuclear Tests

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he has received from the Governments of *(a)* Australia and *(b)* New Zealand about French nuclear tests in the Pacific; and what Commonwealth representations he proposes to make to the French Government. [34153]

The Prime Minister: We are in regular contact with both Governments and are aware of their views. The United Kingdom does not act on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will protest to the French Government against *(a)* the proposed French nuclear tests in the Pacific and *(b)* the French Government's action against the Rainbow Warrior. [34150]

The Prime Minister: No.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister on which occasions he has raised the issue of French nuclear testing within institutions of the European Union. [34152]

The Prime Minister: I have discussed nuclear testing with President Chirac on a number of occasions. I have not considered it necessary to do so within institutions of the EU.

Public Interest Immunity Certificates

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list details of the occasions during the past 30 years when public interest immunity certificates have been signed indicating the Minister concerned, the Department and the subject matter to which the certificate was related. [34116]

The Prime Minister: The information as requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Prime Minister's Questions

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister who will be answering oral questions addressed to him when he cannot be present in the House. [34032]

The Prime Minister: The First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister will answer oral questions addressed to me when I cannot be present in the House.

Prime Ministerial Offices

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the offices in 10 Downing street available to him for his official duties, together with the size of such offices, measured in square feet. [34015]

The Prime Minister: A study is available, which measures approximately 370 sq ft. The Cabinet room and other rooms in No. 10 Downing street are used for Government business. These amount in total to 4,343 sq ft.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister, what role in the presentation and co-ordination of Government policy will be filled by the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary. [34012]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger) on 11 July, *Official Report*, column *496*.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister what level has been set for the annual salary of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State. [34010]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 11 July, *Official Report*, column *496*.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister what will be the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary. [34011]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger) on 11 July, *Official Report*, column *496*.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister how many rooms in the Cabinet Office have been allocated to the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary and his staff. [34009]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

Four rooms in the Cabinet Office have been allocated to the First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister and his staff.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister if he will estimate the annual cost of running the offices and department of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary, indicating *(a)* staff costs and *(b)* rentable value of accommodation occupied. [34008]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The currently estimated annual cost of running the Cabinet Office (Office of Public Service), including the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary, is £80 million of which £32 million relates to staff costs and £5 million is in respect of accommodation.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the fixtures and fittings ordered for the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State with particular reference to *(a)* carpets and *(b)* pictures. [33999]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

No fixtures or fittings have been ordered for the First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister's office. The carpet and pictures were in place and the furniture came from existing stocks.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister what is the size, in square feet, of the new office of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary, located in the Cabinet Office. [34000]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The size of the First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister's office is 872 sq ft.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister what refurbishment work is *(a)* completed, *(b)* under way and *(c)* planned for the offices of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary and his staff; and what is his estimate of the costs of such work. [34007]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

None.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister, how many *(a)* telephones, *(b)* fax machines, *(c)* photocopiers and *(d)* computers have been and will be allocated to the offices and department of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary; and what is the estimated value of the items obtained in each of the above categories. [34006]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The following items have been allocated to the offices of the First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister and his private office staff.

	Quantity	*Cost excluding VAT* £
Telephones	10	590
Facsimile machines	1	1,425
Photocopiers	1	4,017 (annual hire charge)
Computers/printers	7/3	12,469

Information for the Office of Public Service and its agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what will be the design features of stationery created for the office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [34001]

(2) what orders for new stationery have been placed by the offices and Department of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary; and what the cost of such orders will be. [34002]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The stationery for the office of the First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister features the crest used by the Cabinet Office and "Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State". Orders for stationery have so far been placed to an estimated value of £75.

Rose Garden Announcement

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 4 July, which of the means proposed to remunerate the public purse will be used in the particular case of the rose garden announcement of 22 June. [33291]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* My announcement on 22 June took place during the normal working hours of No. 10 Downing street. Any additional costs to the public purse were de minimis and, in accordance with long-standing practice, no charge will be levied.

HEALTH

NHS Policy Board

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many members of *(a)* the NHS policy board and *(b)* the private finance panel have employment in the private sector; is she will list details of such employment; and what assessment she has made of the possibility of conflicts of interest. [30437]

Mr. Malone: Membership of the national health service policy board is drawn from inside and outside the NHS and includes Ministers, senior officials, chairmen of the eight regional health authorities as well as other members who have no formal role in the NHS. No Ministers or senior officials have employment in the private sector. Like all advisory bodies in the NHS, which have no executive responsibility, the NHS policy board is non-statutory and provides advice to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State. Members of the board drawn from outside the NHS are under no obligation to declare their employment or interests. Members of the board who are regional health authority chairmen are appointed to those positions through a process requiring them to declare interests which are relevant and material to authorities of which they are a member. Registers of these interests are publicly available and a copy of the relevant entries will be placed in the Library. Membership of the private finance panel is a matter for my right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or (b) been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, including the companies concerned. [33415]

Mr. Sackville: The Department's staff rules require that shareholdings which staff or immediate members of their families hold, and which might be influenced or affected as a result of their official position, must be declared to their line manager. Records of such declarations are not available centrally.

Speech Therapy

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which local authority education departments will fund speech therapy in schools in the case of non-statemented children requiring speech therapy support services. [33511]

Mr. Bowis: This is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Department of Education and Employment but we are co-funding a project which is being carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research to identify models of good collaborative practice. Its findings should be available towards the end of this year.

Blood Bags

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice has been given by the National Blood Authority, and by his Department, to doctors and hospitals which still have Tuta blood bags in their blood stocks; how many such bags have now been destroyed; what consultations the manufacturers of these bags had with the NBA before changing the design; what compensation is being sought from the manufacturers; and if he will make a statement. [33306]

Mr. Sackville: These matters for the National Blood Authority, which is urgently investigating the problems experienced with Tuta blood bags. I understand that on 4 July the National Blood Authority advised blood centres that all Tuta blood bags be withdrawn.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, column *341*, when he expects to announce the results of the investigation by the National Blood Authority into the problems with Tuta bags; and what estimate his Department has been given of the total cost of the exercise involved in replacing the blood stock lost through defective bags. [34305]

Mr. Sackville: I understand that the National Blood Authority's urgent investigation of these matters is continuing.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department by *(a)* number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33440]

Mr. Sackville: Information on the total number of contracts let to consultancy firms by this Department over the past five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. By total monetary value, since 1993, the first year that such figures exist, the five leading consultancy firms are as follows:

PA Consulting and its subsidiaries

CSS Trident plc

Touch Ross and Co

Siemens Nixdorf

C International Ltd.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much have *(a)* health authorities and *(b)* trusts spent on consultancy services in each year since 1992, by region. [34166]

Mr. Sackville: This information is not available centrally.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contract and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and *(i)* Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, marketing testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33911]

Mr. Sackville: Information regarding the total number of contracts let by this Department and agencies for which it is responsible is not available centrally. The total sums paid to those firms listed in 1993–94 and 1994–95 are as follows:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries	426,942	387,875
Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries	240,513	259,212
Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries	106,904	35,919
Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries	nil	nil
Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries	434,354	191,955
Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries	118	nil

	1993–94 £	1994–95 £
Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries	150	nil
Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries	nil	nil
Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries	200	400

NHS Services

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from the Royal College of Physicians and the Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability on the establishment of a national standard of national health service services with regular monitoring; and if he will make a statement. [33761]

Mr. Malone: None.

Physiotherapists

Ms Mowlam: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the changes in the demand for specialist physiotherapy to treat sufferers with work-related upper limb disorders; and what plans he has to increase the level of funding for this work; [33843]

(2) what has been the annual expenditure on NHS physiotherapy in each of the last five years; and what were these figures as a percentage of the total level of NHS expenditure. [33844.]

Mr. Bowis: The number of people affected by upper limb disorders, or repetitive strain injury as it is also known, is apparently increasing and we are encouraging physiotherapists working in this field to update their practice in line with current thinking and research into the condition.

In the 10-year period from 1982–83 to 1992–93, revenue expenditure on physiotherapy services in England increased by 79 per cent. to £232.4 million, as part of the general increase in funding for the NHS. The figures on the annual expenditure of NHS physiotherapy by health authorities and NHS trusts and their percentage of the total operational hospital and community health care expenditure are shown in the table.

Expenditure on physiotherapy by health authorities and NHS trusts in England and as a per cent. of total operational hospital and community health services expenditure

	Physiotherapy expenditure £000	Physiotherapy expenditure as a per cent. of total HCHS expenditure
1989–90	138,896	1.02
1990–91	147,806	1.00
1991–92	204,714	1.09
1992–93	232,393	1.16
1993–94	252,935	1.23

Notes:
1. HCHS abbreviates hospitals and community health services.
2. The figures for 1991–92 onwards are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years due to changes in accounting practice associated with the introduction of the internal market, including the introduction of capital charges.

Source:
1. The annual financial returns of regional and district health authorities and the special health authorities of the London postgraduate teaching hospitals.
2. The annual financial returns of NHS trusts.
3. The annual accounts of regional and district health authorities and the special health authorities of the London postgraduate teaching hospitals.

Medical Records (Access)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will amend the Access to Health Records Act 1990 to allow patients full access to their complete records other than in exceptional circumstances; if he will make it his policy that patients will be issued with an explanatory statement when full access is denied; and if he will make a statement. [33655]

Mr. Sackville: The Access to Health Records Act 1990 gives patients a right of access to their own health records compiled on or after 1 November 1991. If the record holder considers that access to earlier records is necessary for the later record to be understood, that also is permitted under the Act.

Access may be denied to all or part of the record if disclosure of any information in it might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the patient or to protect the health of another person. Access may also be denied if the record contains information which would identify a third party, other than a health professional, unless that person has consented to the disclosure.

Although the Act does not grant a general right of access to records made before 1 November 1991, questions of access to documents made before that date are matters for the judgment of the health professional primarily responsible for the patient's clinical care. However it is our policy that access be given whenever possible.

The Act does not require the record holder to inform the applicant when part of the record is withheld. It is a matter for the record holder whether to do so but our guidance does not require it and we have no plans to change the current arrangements.

Drugs

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will investigate the price differential of drugs at the hospital/primary care interface; how this affects patients who are discharged from hospital; and if he will make a statement. [33672]

Mr. Malone: Guidance on these issues was given to health authorities in EL(91)127 and EL(94)72, copies of which are available in the Library.

Infertility Treatment

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct all health authorities to make in-vitro fertilisation or gamete intra-fallopian transfer treatment available to women with a clinical need. [33664]

Mr. Sackville: Decisions about the priority and resources to be given to infertility treatment services must be left to the individual health authorities, which are in the best position to determine priorities in the light of local needs and circumstances.

Patients Charter

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will allow nurses and midwives greater discretion under the patients charter in the time scale for operating home visits where this is in the best interests of patients and carers; and if he will make a statement. [33666]

Mr. Malone: The patients charter national standard on home visits by community nurses, health visitors and midwives has been set to provide a challenging but achievable level of service delivery which the national health service must aim to meet in all but exceptional cases. To weaken the standard would not be in the interests of patients.

Community Health Councils

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will allocate further funds to community health councils to enable them to raise their public profile; and if he will make a statement. [33760]

Mr. Malone: No. The working group on the future establishing arrangements for community health councils identified a need for further work in relation to equalising CHC resources after RHA functions transfer to the NHS executive in April 1996. This work will be based on our commitment to ensuring broad consistency in handling CHC affairs.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to ensure greater involvement by community health councils in the processes of needs assessment, the monitoring of performance and quality and in "Local Voices" programmes; and if he will make a statement. [33674]

Mr. Malone: Guidance issued by the National Health Service Executive in 1992 entitled "Local Voices" emphasised the need for the national health service to become truly responsive to the needs, views and preferences of local people. Community health councils have and will continue to play a significant role in this process.

This continued role is clearly acknowledged in the planning and priorities guidance for 1996–97. The guidance details the six most important national priorities for the NHS over the next three to five years, one of which is to give greater voice and influence to health service users.

Intensive Care

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that his Department's review of intensive care facilities will *(a)* review the number of intensive care and high dependency beds and regional centres with particular attention to paediatrics and neurosurgery to ensure the provision of necessary support services and *(b)* implement as a matter of urgency a bed bureau to facilitate the immediate location of appropriate available specialist care beds in an emergency; and if he will make a statement. [33676]

Mr. Sackville: No. I have set up a working group to develop clear definitions of intensive care and high dependency; and to devise guidelines for admission to and discharge from such units.

Folic Acid (Public Awareness)

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase awareness of the importance of folic acid taken before conception and then in early pregnancy in the prevention of neural tube defects; and if he will make a statement. [34570]

Mr. Sackville: The Department has commissioned the Health Education Authority to conduct a large scale publicity campaign to increase awareness of the opportunity to prevent babies having spina bifida and other similar birth defects by women increasing their consumption of folates and folic acid prior to conception and in early pregnancy. We have set aside £2.3 million in England over the next three years for this purpose. The campaign will start in the autumn, focusing first on increasing professional awareness of the issues, and then broaden out early next year to reach women and older school girls. In particular, it will initially target women who are planning to become pregnant.

Health Service Commissioner (Annual Report)

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Healthy when he expects to receive the 1994–95 annual report of the Health Service Commissioner. [34720]

Mr. Sackville: The Health Service Commissioner has made his annual report on the performance of his functions in England, Scotland and Wales. My right hon. Friends, the Secretary of State for Health, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Wales presented the report to the House on 12 July. It was published today (HC 544) and copies have been placed in the Library.

Medical Negligence

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the law of medical negligence on his Department; and if he will make a statement. [33816]

Mr. Malone: The law of medical negligence has no direct effect on my Department.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider giving compensation to those patients who suffer permanent injuries after radiotherapy for the treatment of breast cancer; and if he will make a statement. [33817]

Mr. Sackville: Compensation by the national health service is appropriate only where there is evidence of medical negligence.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement concerning the apparent concentration in particular areas and in particular years of injuries following radiotherapy for breast cancer. [33818]

Mr. Sackville: The Department of Health is funding the Royal College of Radiologists to carry out a clinical review in nine radiotherapy centres of women thought to be damaged by radiotherapy for breast cancer. This should yield useful information about common factors in treatment which might have led to the adverse effects. The need for further studies can then be assessed.

Child Abuse Inquiry

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will give the terms of the National Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse; if he will list the members; what is his estimate of the total costs of the inquiry; on what date the inquiry will begin; and when he anticipates it will be completed. [34250]

Mr. Bowis: The National Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse was set up by the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Accident and Emergency Services, West Midlands

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the provision of accident and emergency services in the west midlands; and what changes to present arrangements are planned. [34281]

Mr. Sackville: It is for health authorities to decide upon the provision of accident and emergency services. The hon. and learned Member may wish to contact Bryan Baker, chairman of West Midlands regional health authority, for further details.

City and Hackney Community NHS Trust

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the occupation and employer of the chair of City and Hackney Community NHS trust. [34179]

Mr. Malone: The chairman of City and Hackney Community NHS trust, Professor Elaine Murphy, is employed by the united medical and dental schools of Guy's and St. Thomas' hospitals. She is a professor within the division of psychiatry in the university of London.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Alan Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 23 February, *Official Report,* column *325,* if he will give the figures on accident and emergency departments by region for 1994–95. [34206]

Mr. Sackville: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 9 June, *Official Report,* column 332.

Listeriosis

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department first made a full assessment of the risks to child health of pregnant mothers consuming soft cheese and other products liable to listeria; and on what date his Department's first guidance note on listeriosis was produced. [34248]

Mr. Sackville: The Department of Health issued advice to the public about listeria in soft ripened cheese, cooked-chilled meals and ready-to-eat poultry on 10 February 1989 and about pâté on 12 July 1989 and 24 August 1989. This included specific guidance to pregnant women.

It would not be appropriate to comment on the timing of the Department's assessment of the health risks associated with foodborne listeriosis which is being considered as part of a current court case.

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Ministers and which Departments were involved in the timing of the Government's decision to warn publicly of the risks of miscarriages, stillbirths and serious illnesses in new born babies from listeriosis caused by consumption of some soft cheeses, cook-chill foods, chicken or pâté. [34310]

Mr. Sackville: Health and Agriculture Ministers were involved in the decision to issue a warning about listeriosis.

Asthma

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include asthma in the "Health of the Nation" strategy; and if he will make a statement. [34282]

Mr. Sackville: An ad hoc expert group has recently reported to the Chief Medical Officer on possible interventions and targets for asthma, so that it might be reconsidered for "Health of the Nation" key area status. The report will be considered together with others on asthma which are expected soon from specialty committees in the Department of Health.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were made for the treatment of asthma, per family health service authority, for each of the last three years for which figures are available. [34283]

Mr. Malone: The available information will be placed in the Library.

GP Fundholding

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what figures *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS Executive hold on the transaction costs between trust and general practitioner fundholders. [34136]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

NHS Trusts

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the average rent charged by NHS trusts to tenants in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [34251]

Mr. Sackville: This information is not available centrally.

NHS Staff

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the number of staff, by type, working in *(a)* the acute sector and *(b)* the community sector in each of the last three years. [34135]

Mr. Malone: The information is not available in the form requested.

Information on the national health service work force is given in "The NHS Workforce in England 1982–1992" and "Health and Personal Social Services Statistics 1994", copies of which are available in the Library.

Information on staff directly employed by local authority social services departments is given in the annual publication, "Local Authority Social Services Statistics: Staff of Local Authority Social Services Departments", copies of which are in the Library. The latest edition gives data as at 30 September 1994.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for South Down (Mr. McGrady) of 13 June, *Official Report*, column *465*, what reasons were given for rejecting an independent environmental protection agency for Northern Ireland. [33241]

Mr. Moss: The Environment Service of the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland provides an integrated approach to the protection and conservation of the environment. The establishment of an independent agency dealing solely with environmental protection would prejudice that holistic approach. For this reason it was considered that a next steps agency, dealing with the full range of the current responsibilities of the Environment Service, would achieve many of the benefits of a separate protection agency and could be brought into being in a much shorter timescale.

Bypasses (Dungiven and Strabane)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals he has for a bypass at *(a)* Dungiven and *(b)* Strabane. [33044]

Mr. Moss: Proposals for the provision of a bypass of Dungiven and for the completion of stage 2 of Strabane bypass—stage 1 is already in place—are long term and are not included in the Department's current five-year major road works programme.

Training Schemes

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the sources of information held by him on Government-sponsored training schemes. [33593]

Mr. Ancram: Responsibility for the subject in question has been delegated to the Training and Employment Agency under its chief executive, Mr. J. S. Crozier. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from J. S. Crozier to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 10 July 1995.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me, as chief Executive of the Training and Employment Agency, to reply to your question.

The main sources of information on Government sponsored training schemes are as follows:

The Training and Employment Agency headquarters and local office network. There are 31 local offices located across Northern Ireland.

Adult Guidance Centres of which there are 33 provide under contract to the Agency a career assessment and guidance service for adults.

A Training Organisation network consisting of 161 organisations which includes the Agency's 11 Training Centres. These organisations are contracted to deliver T&EA training programmes.

A Directory of Training Opportunities (formally known as the Directory of Training Providers) gives a comprehensive guide to training opportunities and providers in Northern Ireland. The Directory is available form the Agency on request.

The Agency also produces a Directory of Services which gives a brief description of each of the Agency's services including training schemes and is also available on request.

In addition, potential clients can be referred to the Training and Employment Agency by Social Security Offices, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Community based Jobclubs which would be able to give limited information on the training programmes available.

I hope that your find this helpful.

Sunday Observance Act

Mr. Mallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what meaning is attached by his Department to the terms *(a)* tradesman, *(b)* certificer, *(c)* workman, and *(d)* labourer as used in article 1 of the Act for the better observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, AD 1695; [33517]

(2) what meaning is attached by his Department to the term, works of necessity and charity, as used in article 1 of the Act for the better observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, AD 1695; [33515]

(3) what meaning is attached by his Department to the terms, *(a)* drover, *(b)* horse-courser, *(c)* waggoner, *(d)* carrier, *(e)* butcher and *(f)* higler as used in an Act for the better observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, AD 1695; [33514]

(4) what meaning is attached by his Department to the terms, (i) publickly cry (ii) shew forth, (iii) expose to sale, (iv) merchandises and (v) chattels as used in article 1 of the Act for the better observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, AD 1695. [33516]

Mr. Moss: The Sunday Observance Act (Ireland) 1695 is an archaic piece of legislation which is inevitably couched in language that is out of date. It is not appropriate, therefore, to attach in the abstract, particular meanings to the terms used in the Act. Such determination would be relevant and meaningful only in the context of a particular issue or case.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33427]

Sir John Wheeler: None.

Training and Work Schemes

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what devolved powers he has to run training or work schemes that are different from those run elsewhere in the United Kingdom. [33595]

Mr. Ancram: Responsibility for the subject in question has been delegated to the Training and Employment Agency under its chief executive, Mr. J. S. Crozier. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from J. S. Crozier to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 8 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me as Chief Executive of the Agency to reply to your question about the devolved powers he has to run training or work schemes that are different from those run elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Training and employment programmes and services are administered by the Training and Employment Agency which is a Next Steps Agency established by the Department of Economic Development in 1990. The Department is empowered to run training and employment schemes under the Employment and Training Act (NI) 1950 (as amended by the Employment and Training (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988) which includes authority to "make such arrangements as it considers appropriate for the purpose of employment suitable for their ages and capacities or of assisting persons to obtain suitable employees (including partners and other business associates)". Under the arrangements which pertain during Direct Rule this authority is discharged subject to the direction and control of the Secretary of State.

Social Needs

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in what ways the Department of Education uses its budget to fulfil the Government's policy of targeting social need in Northern Ireland. [33303]

Mr. Ancram: The formula used for distributing the annual block grant resources to the education and library boards takes account of the relative incidence of social deprivation in each board area and social need is also taken into account in determining major schools capital starts each year.

In addition, substantial resources—£6 million to date in 1995–96—are targeted at the education service within the "Making Belfast Work" and Londonderry regeneration initiatives.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in what way each of the education and library boards enact Government policy of targeting social needs in Northern Ireland. [33304]

Mr. Ancram: Local management of schools funding arrangements require each education and library board to target social needs through allocations in respect of special needs and social deprivation. In 1994–95, £28.8 million or 6 per cent. of the aggregated schools budget was targeted at the most needy schools in this way.

In addition, over £20 million will be made available over the next three years towards a special initiative aimed at raising standards in those schools facing the greatest problems of social and educational disadvantage.

Preparatory Schools

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much Government money is used to fund private fee paying preparatory departments of schools; and how much each school receives. [33305]

Mr. Ancram: The total amount of Government grant allocated to these schools in the 1995–96 financial year is £1,488,221.

The allocation to individual schools are as follows:

	£
Voluntary Grammar Schools	
Armagh Royal School	17,126
Belfast Royal Academy	129,304
Ballymena Academy	48,382
Strathearn Grammar College	77,497
Ballymoney Dalriada	45,385
Victoria College	63,796
Bangor Grammar School	60,370
Sullivan Upper School	81,350
Bloomfield Collegiate	38,106
Larne Grammar School	23,977
Campbell College	86,060
Friends' School Lisburn	82,635
Hunterhouse College	47,526
The Wallace High School	84,347
Methodist college	260,321
Foyle and Londonderry College	19,695
Rainey Endowed	25,690
Royal Academical Institute	101,474
Dungannon Royal	23,121
Controlled Grammar Schools	
Glenlola Collegiate	30,199
Down High	27,054
Lurgan College	15,867
Regent House	55,049
Portadown College	23,559
Ballyclare High	20,331

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33455]

Sir John Wheeler: The information requested is not available prior to 1989. However, from April 1989 to March 1995, the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in the Northern Ireland Office and Northern Ireland departments was £14.8 million.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernest and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and *(i)* Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33906]

Sir John Wheeler: Details are set out in the following table, for the various categories for which information is collected.

Number of contracts per firm (including subsidiaries) per category

1993–94	*General management consultancy*	*Information technology*	*Privatisation (includes market testing)*	*Next steps (includes prior option studies)*
Coopers and Lybrand	39	2	4	0
KPMG Peat Marwick	14	0	0	1
Ernest and Young	20	0	0	0
Arthur Andersen	0	0	0	0
Price Waterhouse	22	1	3	1
Grant Thornton	0	0	0	0
Stoy Hayward	22	0	0	0
Robson Rhodes	0	0	0	0
Pannell Kerr Forster	0	0	0	0
Total	117	3	7	2

Total amount of spend by 9 listed Consultancy groups £1,869,528.

Number of contracts per firm (including subsidiaries) per category

1994–95	*General Management Consultancy*	*Information technology*	*Privatisation (including market testing)*	*Next steps (including prior option studies)*
Coopers and Lybrand	42	0	1	3
KPMG Peat Marwick	8	1	1	0
Ernest and Young	15	0	0	1
Arthur Andersen	0	0	0	0
Price Waterhouse	25	0	0	1
Grant Thornton	0	0	0	0
Stoy Hayward	12	0	0	2
Robson Rhodes	0	0	0	0
Pannell Kerr Forster	0	0	0	0
Total	102	1	2	7

Total amount of spend by nine listed Consultancy groups £1,282,700.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much have *(a)* health authorities and *(b)* trusts spent on consultancy services in each year since 1992, by region. [34162]

Mr. Moss: The information is not available in the exact form requested. Health and social services boards and trusts produce statements in support of their annual accounts which provide supplementary analysis of the expenditure on the accounts. The table sets out the cost of external contract staff and consultancy services.

	1992–93 £	*1993–94* £
Northern Board	196,618	162,575
Southern Board	316,161	362,501
Eastern Board	520,942	252,161
Western Board	190,988	158,781
Trusts in Eastern Board Area	n/a	320,435
Trusts in Southern Board Area	n/a	125,917
Total	1,224,709	1,382,370

The first Trusts were established in Northern Ireland on 1 April 1993. Five are in the Eastern board area and one is in the Southern Board area.

Asbestos Cement Pipes

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals he has to construct an asbestos cement pipe to Belfast from the Silent Valley reservoir, which other countries in the European Union have prohibited the use of asbestos cement pipes for the flow of drinking water; and if he will make a statement on the use of asbestos cement pipes for the flow of drinking water in Northern Ireland. [33902]

Mr. Moss: Plans are now at an advanced stage for replacement of two sections of the Mourne Conduit totalling 3.8 km. The conduit conveys water from the Silent Valley reservoir to Belfast.

Tenders under consideration include a number based on the use of asbestos cement pipes. No decision has been taken on the pipe material.

Asbestos cement pipes have in the past been one of a range of pipe materials used in Northern Ireland in accordance with nationally approved standards. This is consistent with UK practice. The use of a pipe laying material by member states of the European Union is a matter for internal decision by the authorities in those states.

Students

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many students from Northern Ireland attended universities in Great Britain during the most recent academic year. [33626]

Mr. Ancram: In 1993–94, the most recent year for which figures are available, 12,225 students from Northern Ireland attended higher education courses at institutions in Great Britain.

Foreign Undergraduates

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to what extent each of the two Northern Ireland universities seek to attract foreign undergraduates from each of the 14 member nations of the European Union; and to what extent they give priority attention to promotions in the Republic of Ireland. [33627]

Mr. Ancram: Both Northern Ireland universities provide details of their courses on European-wide computerised databases. Copies of the universities' prospectuses are also available throughout the European Union through the offices of the British Council.

The universities are also active participants in EU student mobility schemes which provide for EU students to undertake part of their course of study in Northern Ireland.

Both universities undertake promotional visits to the Republic of Ireland in response to direct requests for them to be represented at major career conventions.

Clinical Negligence Claims

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what have been the costs of meeting clinical negligence claims in each region in each year since 1990. [34171]

Mr. Moss: The cost of meeting clinical negligence cases in Northern Ireland since 1990–91 is as follows:

	Cost £
1990–91[1]	1,257,714
1991–92	2,055,628
1992–93	2,429,365
1993–94	6,106,839
1994–95	4,518,236

[1] The required information is only available for the last 6 months of 1990–91.

NHS Allowances

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information is held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS executive on expenditure on trust board and health authority members' allowances. [34145]

Mr. Moss: The Department of Health and Social Services determine the rates of travelling and other allowances payable to board members.

The annual accounts of health and social services trusts and health and social services boards are submitted to the management executive. The accounts do not separately identify expenditure on allowances paid to board members. They do, however, identify total board members remuneration and disclose since 1994–95:

total remuneration of non-executive members

basic salary of executive members

performance related pay of executive members

pension contributions of executive members

compensation paid for loss of office

pensions to former directors.

WALES

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many previously arranged official meetings have been *(a)* cancelled, *(b)* postponed or *(c)* re-arranged since the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) resigned as Secretary of State; and if he will make a statement on the impact of these alterations. [32911]

Mr. Hague *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:*

(a) Five cancelled

(b) No meetings were postponed

(c) One rearranged

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33421]

Mr. Hague: None.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33575]

Mr. Hague: Details of management and other consultants engaged by the Welsh Office are as follows:

	Number of occasions	*Total payments (£000)*
1990–91	24	229
1991–92	38	1,109
1992–93	74	1,416
1993–94	87	1,454
1994–95	45	805

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33432]

Mr. Hague: This information is available only for the three years from 1992–93 to 1994–95. Over this period, the five main firms of management and other consultants engaged by the Welsh Office, by both the number and value of contracts are:

Coopers and Lybrand

Howard Humphreys and Partners

KPMG Peat Marwick

Price Waterhouse

Touche Ross

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33451]

Mr. Hague: Since 1980, the Welsh Office has not incurred any expenditure on consultants in connection with privatisation programmes.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes

and its subsidiaries and *(i)* Pannel Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33905]

Mr. Hague: Over this period, the Welsh Office has awarded contracts to five of the firms mentioned for consultancy work. Information on the number of contracts awarded is as follows:

	1993–94	*1994–95*
Coopers and Lybrand	4	1
Peat Marwick	3	3
Price Waterhouse	3	1
Grant Thornton	—	1
Pannell Kerr Forster	1	–

Details of expenditure with individual firms cannot be disclosed for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Uncollected Community Charge

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is his latest estimate of uncollected community charge; and what percentage of manufacturing output was accounted for by *(a)* the steel industry, *(b)* the aerospace industry and *(c)* the coal industry in each of the last 10 years. [33512]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The amount of uncollected community charge as at 31 March 1995 was £32.5 million. This provisional figure includes £6.6 million written off as bad debts between 1 April 1990 and 31 March 1995 and £25.9 million of cumulative arrears at 31 March 1995. Information on the output of the steel and aerospace industries as a percentage of total manufacturing output is shown in table 1. Information on the coal industry on a comparable basis is not available, but data on the output of coal in tonnes are shown in table 2.

Table 1: Output of the steel and aerospace industries as a percentage of total manufacturing output[1], Wales 1983–1992

Year	*Steel industry (SIC80 221)*	*Aerospace industry (SIC80 364)*
1983	Not available	Not available
1984	[2]—	2.3
1985	[2]—	2.4
1986	[2]—	[2]—
1987	18.6	[2]—
1988	17.7	[2]—
1989	17.6	0.4
1990	13.0	3.9
1991	12.4	1.4
1992	11.4	2.1

[1] Gross value added at factor cost.
[2] —figures are not shown as a precaution against disclosure of confidential information.
Source:
Census of Production.

Table 2: Production of deep-mined and open-cast coal, Wales 1983–1993

Year	*Million tonnes*
1983	9.47
1984	3.44
1985	8.08
1986	9.30
1987	8.04
1988	7.23
1989	6.79
1990	6.40
1991	5.19
1992	4.87
1993	4.50

Source:
Department of Trade and Industry.

RAF Sealand

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he proposes to visit RAF Sealand, Deeside, Clwyd. [33495]

Mr. Hague: I have no such plans at present.

Saw-billed Ducks

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many licences to shoot saw-billed ducks have been issued by his Department in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [33334]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: No licences were issued in 1992 and 1993; eight were issued in 1994.

Business Rates

Mr. Ieuan Wyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many appeals have been lodged by caravan and camping park owners in Wales against the revaluation of their premises carried out by district valuation officers in Wales. [33713]

(2) how many representations he has received on the issue of revaluation of caravan and camping parks in Wales following the revaluation of business premises; [33714]

(3) if he will change the criteria adopted by valuation officers in Wales in determining rateable values of caravan and camping parks, so as to take more account of the profitability of businesses in the valuation process. [33715]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Some 95 appeals had been lodged by 7 July 1995. My right hon. Friend and I have received 68 representations.

The criteria by which caravan sites are valued for business rates cover both England and Wales and are a matter for the Valuation Office agency. In the absence of appropriate rental evidence for properties such as caravan parks, the valuation method uses information which takes account of profitability. Discussions are taking place between the agency and representatives of the industry on revisions to the method used. I hope they will come to a mutually acceptable conclusion.

Prescription Pricing

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answer on 15 June, *Official Report*, column 662, if he has set a deadline for the Prescription Pricing Authority, England to satisfy the Welsh Health

Common Services Authority that it has the legal basis to bid to supply prescription pricing services in Wales; and if he will place a copy in the Library of the relevant correspondence between the two authorities concerning confirmation or otherwise of this point. [33968]

Mr. Hague: No. These are matters for the Welsh Health Common Services Authority.

Welsh Development Agency

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to the answer of 15 June, *Official Report*, column *661*, on what date he approached the commission for permission to place the relevant correspondence on regional development fund assistance to the Welsh Development Agency; what response has been received; and when he expects the correspondence will be placed in the Library. [33969]

Mr. Hague: I have placed a copy of the letter in the Library with the approval of the Commission.

Auditor's Remuneration

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how much have *(a)* health authorities and *(b)* trusts spent on auditors' remuneration in each year since 1992, by region. [34163]

Mr. Richards: The information is as follows:

£ thousand

	Health authorities	*NHS trusts*
1992–93	1,289	70
1993–94	1,448	758

Notes:
1. 1993–94 data is provisional.
2. Auditors' remuneration consists of audit fees and other auditor's remuneration.

Source:
Annual Accounts/Financial Returns of DHAs, SHAs, FHSAs and NHS Trusts.

Clinical Negligence Claims

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what have been the costs of meeting clinical negligence claims in each region in each year since 1990–91. [34167]

Mr. Richards: The total cost of meeting clinical negligence claims in Wales in each of the financial year since 1990–91 is as follows:

£ million

1990–91	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*
3.044	2.220	3.064	[1]3.548

[1] provisional figures only.

NHS Allowances

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information is held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS executive on expenditure on trust board and health authority members' allowances. [34144]

Mr. Richards: The information for the health service in Wales for 1993–94 is as follows:

£ thousand

	Health authorities	*NHS Trusts*
Fees	808	599
Other emoluments (including pension contributions)	2,427	3,408
Total remuneration	3,235	4,007

Note:
1993–94 data is provisional.

Source:
Annual Accounts of DHAs, SHAs, FHSAs and NHS Trusts.

Consultancies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much have *(a)* health authorities and *(b)* trusts spent on consultancy services in each year since 1992, by region. [34161]

Mr. Richards: The information is as follows:

£ thousands

	Health authorities	*NHS trusts*
1992–93	2,427	102
1993–94	3,436	556

Notes:
1. 1993–94 data are provisional.
2. Information for family health services authorities and the Health Promotion Authority for Wales is not held centrally.

Source:
Annual Accounts/Financial Returns of DHAs, WHCSA and NHS Trusts.

GP Fundholders

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what have been the costs of assisting general practitioner fundholders with information technology expenditure in each year since 1991–92. [34169]

Mr. Richards: Total payment in year for Wales for GP fundholders information technology since 1991–92 is as follows:

	Expenditure £000	*Number of GP Fundholders*	
		Full	*Preparatory*
1991–92	588.2	7	19
1992–93	997.2	26	45
1993–94	1,282.7	71	31
1994–95	1,040.2	101	22

Source:
Family health services authorities' financial information system returns.

School Pupils (Costs)

Sir Harold Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the unit cost per pupil in each local education authority in Wales in 1993–94 for *(a)* nursery/primary and *(b)* secondary pupils. [34327]

Mr. Richards: The Welsh Office's training and education intelligence unit regularly produces an education finance bulletin, which contains unit cost figures and a copy of the bulletin is placed in the Library of the House. Figures for 1993–94 are not yet available: as soon as they become available they will be incorporated in a new issue of the bulletin and I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Valuation Tribunals

Mr. Sweeney: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what arrangements he is making for valuation tribunals in Wales following the reorganisation of local government on 1 April 1996. [34837]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have carefully considered the responses to the recent consultation. We have concluded that, from 1 April 1996, there should be four tribunals covering north, west, south and east Wales. They will be served by the existing offices at Colwyn bay, Carmarthen, Cardiff and Newport. Appointments to the tribunals will be made by the new unitary authorities to take effect on 1 April 1996. Regulations will be made in the autumn giving effect to these changes and making some other amendments to the arrangements for the appointment of tribunal members and the administration of tribunals. I am writing to all Welsh Members setting out the changes more fully. I shall place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

TREASURY

Inward Investment

4. **Sir David Madel:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of inward investment. [32550]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: Foreign-owned firms in the UK strengthen competition and innovation, boost productive capacity and provide jobs. In the past three years, inward investment to the UK has created or safeguarded a quarter of a million jobs.

European Single Currency

13. **Mr. Wilshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the proposed single currency for the European Union. [32559]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: It is now clear, following the European Council at Cannes, that there will be no move to a European single currency in 1997. It is too early to judge whether a successful monetary union will be possible in 1999 or beyond.

Tax Reductions

15. **Mr. Flynn:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sum he expects will be available for tax reductions in the next two years. [32562]

Mr. Jack: The public sector borrowing requirement is on a steady downward path. My right hon. and learned Friend has made it clear that he will cut taxes when the public finances can afford it and the economic conditions are right.

Inflation Forecasts

16. **Mr. Mike O'Brien:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made in his inflation forecasts in the last year. [32563]

Mr. Waldegrave: I refer to the reply my right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave to the hon. Member for Colne Valley (Mr. Riddick) earlier today.

Trade Figures

17. **Mr. Hutton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the economic impact of the latest balance of trade figures. [32564]

Mr. Waldegrave: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hillsborough (Mrs. Jackson).

Fiscal Policies

19. **Mr. Sutcliffe:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to change his fiscal policies following the Treasury's half-yearly forecast on economic prospects. [32566]

Mr. Waldegrave: My right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has no plans to change fiscal policy, which is to bring the public sector borrowing requirement back towards balance over the medium term. The figures in the summer forecast demonstrate that we are on course to achieve this.

Housing Policies

20. **Mr. Burden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of housing policies on the construction industry and economic performance. [32567]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The Government are delivering healthy, sustainable economic growth based on low inflation and sound public finances. Industry, including the construction industry, is expected to share fully in the benefits of rising prosperity.

Interest Rate Policy

22. **Mr. Hoon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will next meet the Governor of the Bank of England to discuss interest rate policy. [32569]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The next regularly monthly meeting will be held on 27 July.

Biodiesel Duty

24. **Mr. Ainger:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from environmental organisations about the level of duty on biodiesel.

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: None.

Tax Fraud

25. **Mr. Frank Cook:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department is taking to prevent and detect tax fraud. [32573]

Mr. Jack: The Inland Revenue's strategy is to encourage voluntary compliance and to maintain an active presence across the tax system, underpinned by statutory powers, to detect and deter tax evasion and fraud. The Inland Revenue aims to help taxpayers to comply with their tax obligations by explaining what those obligations are in clear and simple terms.

Local tax offices scrutinise taxpayers' accounts and returns, and investigate those where, for example, profits appear to be understated, to detect and put right evasion.

Specialist offices deal with larger and more complex cases, including those where prosecution may be appropriate. In addition to investigations involving taxpayers known to the Inland Revenue, resources are also allocated to the detection of those individuals who should be paying tax, but make no declarations of their income.

The Department has consistently made efforts to improve the quality of its compliance work. There has been an emphasis in recent years on larger or more high-risk cases, while the Department has maintained a presence in all areas of the tax system, and it has established an investigation quality monitoring system, which has ensured that its work in the area is extremely cost-effective—the reported yield being enhanced by the future compliance of taxpayers successfully investigated and by the deterrent effect on those who might otherwise try to evade tax.

Further details of the Inland Revenue's compliance work may be found in the chapter entitled "Compliance" in the Board of Inland Revenue's 136th annual report, which was laid before Parliament in October 1994. It gives a broad outline of the Department's compliance activities, including the detection of possible fraud. The report also contains tables that show the yield from compliance work.

Investment

26. **Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to encourage greater investment in British industry. [32574]

27. **Mr. Timms:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he proposes to increase the level of investment in the United Kingdom economy. [32575]

Mr. Waldegrave: I refer the hon. Members to the reply I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Attercliffe (Mr. Betts).

Single European Currency

Sir Wyn Roberts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission and publish studies of the advantages and disadvantages to the United Kingdom of a single European currency. [32565]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The panel of independent forecasters, or six wise men, published a study of the issues raised by European monetary union as part of its May 1995 report.

Negative Equity

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he expects negative equity to increase in the next financial year. [32568]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I expect there to be a modest recovery in house prices, starting in the second half of 1996. Rising house prices normally reduce negative equity.

Low Pay and Unemployment

Mr. Loyden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his assessment of the economic impact of low pay and unemployment. [32571]

Mr. Waldegrave: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Coventry, North-East (Mr. Ainsworth).

Duty on Beer

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what research has been undertaken on the revenue effect of lowering the excise duty on beer; and if he will place a copy in the Library; [33128]

(2) what research has been undertaken on the effect on the beer trade of lowering the excise duty on beer; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [33129]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: Research is continuously in progress to monitor the state of excise industries. The work by the Institute for Fiscal Studies on simulating indirect tax changes continues to be the basis for the Government's view of revenue and demand/effects of indirect tax changes. A copy of the relevant IFS working paper W90/11, "The Simulation of Indirect Tax Reforms: The IFS Simulation Program for Indirect Taxation (SPIT)", has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Bank Audits

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who audited *(a)* the Bank of England *(b)* Barings in the latest applicable year. [33918]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The answer to both questions is Coopers and Lybrand.

Securities and Investments Board

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the annual report of the Securities and Investments Board to be published. [34721]

Mrs. Angela Knight: A copy of the board's report, made in accordance with section 117 of the Financial Services Act 1986, was laid before Parliament today. The report covered the period from 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995. Copies are now available in the Library.

Entitlements

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the entitlements for 1995–96 resulting from the carry forward of underspends allowed under the end-year flexibility schemes for capital, running costs, health, Ministry of Defence operating costs and Jubilee line extension expenditure. [34722]

Mr. Waldegrave: A list of entitlements, totalling £331 million for capital expenditure, £500 million for running costs; £371 million for health expenditure, £83 million for Ministry of Defence operating costs expenditure and £49 million for expenditure on the Jubilee line extension is shown in the table.

Subject to parliamentary approval of the necessary supplementary estimates, individual cash limits and running costs limits will be increased when entitlement is taken up.

The total increase in cash limits resulting from the take-up of end-year flexibility will be charged to the reserve and will not therefore add to the planned total of public expenditure.

Entitlement for 1995–96 cash limits resulting from the carryover of capital underspends
Cash limits on votes

Class	*Vote*	*Accounting department*	*Description of expenditure*	*£ thousand*
I	3	Ministry of Defence	Systems procurement and research	99,931
II	1	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Overseas representation	2,114
II	3	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	BBC World Service	3,015
II	4	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	The British Council	2,000
III	3	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Operational expenditure	2,000
III	4	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Departmental administration and agencies	60
IV	1	Department of Trade and Industry	Programmes and administration	3,313
IV	11	Office of Electricity Regulation	Office of Electricity Regulation	229
V	1	Department of Employment	Programmes and central services	2,000
V	3	Department of Employment	Health and Safety Commission and Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service	305
VI	1	Department of Transport	Highways Agency	11,831
VI	4	Department of Transport	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	2,000
VI	5	Department of Transport	Roads and local transport	1,787
VI	8	Office of the Rail Regulator	Office of the Rail Regulator	162
VII	3	Department of the Environment	Environmental protection and water	1,547
VII	5	Department of the Environment	Administration	2,000
VII	6	Office of Water Services	Office of Water Services	265
VII	7	Ordnance Survey	Ordnance Survey	1,942
IX	2	Northern Ireland Court Service	Northern Ireland Court Service	1,727
IX	3	Public Record Office	Public Record Office	2,000
IX	7	The Crown Office, Scotland	The Crown Office, Scotland and Lord Advocate's Department	2,000
X	1	Department for Education	Schools, research and miscellaneous services	1,796
X	3	Department for Education	Administration	1,175
XI	1	Department of National Heritage	Programme expenditure and administration	2,320
XII	4	Office of Population Censuses and Surveys	Office of Population Censuses and Surveys	635
XIII	4	Department of Social Security	Administration and miscellaneous services	13,605
XIV	1	Scottish Office of Agriculture and Fisheries Department	Agriculture and fisheries, Scotland	2,000
XIV	2	Scottish Office Industry Department	Training programmes, roads and transport services, industrial and regional support, Scotland	16,961
XIV	5	Scottish Office Environment Department	Housing and environmental services, Scotland	151
XIV	10	Scottish Office Home and Health Department	Law, order, miscellaneous health and social work services, Scotland	772
XIV	15	Scottish Office Education Department	Education, arts and libraries, Scotland	2,000
XIV	17	Scottish Courts Administration	Administration of Justice, Scotland	2,000
XIV	18	Scottish Office	Scottish Office administration	720
XIV	19	Scottish Record Office	Scottish Record Office	214
XIV	20	General Register Office for Scotland	General Register Office for Scotland	553
XV	2	Welsh Office (1)	Industrial support, Development Board for Rural Wales, housing subsidy, training and education, Wales	7,527
XV	3	Welsh Office	Roads and transport, housing, other environmental services, arts and libraries, health and personal social services and Welsh Office administration, Wales	5,979
XVI	1	Northern Ireland Office	Administration, law, order, protective and miscellaneous services	2,949
XVII	1	HM Treasury	HM Treasury	2,000
XVII	5	Inland Revenue	Valuation Office (Executive Agency): administration	514
XVII	8	Department for National Savings	Department for National Savings	1,136
XVII	11	The Office of HM Paymaster General	The Office of HM Paymaster General	1,423
XVII	12	Central Statistical Office	Central Statistical Office	854
XVIII	1	Cabinet Office	Office of Public Service and Science	645
XVIII	2	Cabinet Office	Office of Public Service and Science: science	5,606
XIX	1	Cabinet Office	Cabinet Office: other services	1,227
XIX	2	Cabinet Office	Security and intelligence services	3,242
Total voted				220,233

Cash limits on non-voted expenditure

Cash Block	*Accounting department*	*Description of expenditure*	*£ thousands*
1995–96			
DOE/HC	Department of the Environment	Grants and capital expenditure financed by the Housing Corporation in England.	51
DOE/NT	Department of the Environment	Net capital expenditure by the Commission for the New Towns and Letchworth Garden City Development Corporation for housing, roads, commercial and industrial investment and certain water services.	683
DOE/RCW	Department of the Environment	Grants under the Single Regeneration Budget to local authorities and other bodies (including local authority credit approvals), external financing requirements under the Single Regeneration Budget of Urban Development Corporations in England, Housing Action Trusts and the Urban Regeneration Agency (also known as English Partnerships), and other grants promoting urban regeneration (including local authority credit approvals).	22,313
DOE/LACAP	Department of the Environment	Basic credit approvals to local authorities in England for housing, transport (except passenger transport authorities), education, health, 'other services' and Home Office (fire services in shires only). Supplementary credit approvals, specified capital grants and certain other grants to local authorities in England for housing.	993
DOE/OES	Department of Environment	Supplementary credit approvals for other environmental services in England, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and the Isles of Scilly (water and sewerage).	2,310
HO/LACAP	Home Office	Supplementary credit approvals for probation, fire and police in England and Wales. Basic credit approvals for fire (Joint FCDAs only) in England.	92
DOT/LACAP	Department of Transport	Supplementary credit approvals for transport in England. Basic credit approvals for passenger transport authorities. Supplementary credit approvals to cover local authority expenditure which will be reimbursed by ERDF grant.	10,149
DOH/LACAP	Department of Health	Supplementary credit approvals for health in England.	1,305
LCD/LACAP	Lord Chancellor's Department	Supplementary credit approvals for magistrates' courts (England and Wales).	724
MAFF/LACAP	Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food	Supplementary credit approvals for flood defence, coast protection and harbour improvements in England.	721
NID1	Northern Ireland Departments	Services in Northern Ireland broadly analogous to services in Great Britain covered by cash limits but including family practitioner services.	10,581
NID4	Northern Ireland Departments	Expenditure in Northern Ireland on national agriculture capital grant schemes, certain assistance for production, marketing and processing and the fishing industry.	670
SO/LA1	Scottish Office	Net capital allocations and grants to local authorities in Scotland for roads and transport, water and sewerage, police, education, social work services, general services, urban programme and river purification.	31,111
SO/LA2	Scottish Office	Net capital allocations and grants to local authorities in Scotland for housing. Capital expenditure by New Towns in Scotland for housing and other environmental services.	13,810
WO/LACAP	Welsh Office	Basic credit approvals for local authorities in Wales. Supplementary credit approvals for all services (except ERDF projects). Strategic Development Scheme grants (both capital and current) and some housing grants.	13,269
WO/HFW	Welsh Office	Capital grants and net lending both to Housing for Wales and by housing for Wales to housing associations. Special Needs Management Allowance.	2,300
Total non voted cash limits			111,082
Total capital end year flexibility			331,315

Entitlement for 1995–96 cash limits and external finance limits resulting from the carryover of underspends on health expenditure

Class	*Vote*	*Accounting department*	*Description of expenditure*	*£ thousands*
XII	1	Department of Health	Hospital, community health, family health services (part), related services, England	232,136
XII	2	Department of Health	Administration, miscellaneous health services and personal social services, England	26,296

Entitlement for 1995–96 cash limits and external finance limits resulting from the carryover of underspends on health expenditure

Class	*Vote*	*Accounting department*	*Description of expenditure*	*£ thousands*
XIV	10	The Scottish Home and Health Department	Law, order and miscellaneous health and social work services, Scotland	1,609
XIV	12	The Scottish Home and Health Department	Hospital, community health, family health (part), and other health services and NHS	35,819
XV	3	Welsh Office	Roads and transport, housing, other environmental services, arts and libraries, health and personal social services and Welsh Office administration, Wales	1,259
XV	5	Welsh Office	Hospital, community health, family health services (part) and related services, Wales	24,438
NHS Trusts (Scotland)		Scottish Office		22,921
NHS Trusts (Wales)		Welsh Office		4,224
NID	1	Northern Ireland Office	Services in Northern Ireland broadly analogous to services in Great Britain covered by cash limits but including family practitioner services	10,719
Medicines Control Agency				12,000
Total health end year flexibility				371,331

Entitlements for 1995–96 running costs limits resulting from the carryforward of running costs underspends

Department	*£ thousand*
Overseas Development Administration	3,598
Intervention Board—Executive Agency	2,791
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	6,778
Trade and Industry	12,700
Office of Fair Trading	745
Office of Telecommunications	303
Office of Electricity Regulation	1,738
Department of Employment	41,003
Department of Transport	20,256
Department of the Environment	24,854
Property Holdings	4,838
Office of Water Services	819
Home Office	26,315
Charity Commission	732
Lord Chancellor's Department	549
Northern Ireland Court Service	327
Crown Prosecution Service	6,026
Public Record Office	160
Serious Fraud Office	878
Treasury Solicitor's Department	2,105
Crown Office	2,076
Department for Education	7,774
Department of National Heritage	3,206
Department of Health	20,550
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys	1,281
Department of Social Security	102,349
Scottish Office	8,940
Scottish Courts Administration	2,584
Scottish Record Office	782
General Register Office	439
Welsh Office	491
Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools in Wales	250
Northern Ireland Office and Departments	29,877
Her Majesty's Treasury	11,405
Customs and Excise	40,434
Inland Revenue	89,433
Registry of Friendly Societies	459
Department for National Savings	2,607
Central Statistical Office	76
Office of Public Service and Science	13,590
Cabinet Office	3,147
Privy Council Office	428
Total running costs	499,693

Entitlements for 1995–96 running costs limits resulting from the carryforward of running costs underspends

Department	*£ thousand*
Entitlement for the Ministry of Defence resulting from the carryover of underspends on operating costs	82,887
Entitlement for the Jubilee Line extension	49,300

Notes:

Following the machinery of Government changes announced by the Prime Minister on 5 July 1995, there will be some reallocation of EYF entitlements between departments. Details will be announced at the appropriate times.

1. Part of this entitlement may be taken up on Class XV, Vote 1 Agriculture and fisheries, Wales.

ECOFIN Meeting

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the recent Council meeting of the Economic and Finance Ministers of the European Union. [34723]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I represented the UK at the Economic and Finance Council—ECOFIN—of the European Union in Brussels on 10 July.

There was a public debate on the incoming Spanish presidency's work programme for ECOFIN. The Spanish programme concentrates on fighting unemployment and on preparation for economic and monetary union. I emphasised the need for the European economies to create the conditions for rising employment, for a through and wide-ranging discussion on preparation for European monetary union, for the Council to take full account of EC budgetary restraints and to recognise that value for money and fighting fraud and waste should be a top priority.

The Council agreed a number of procedural plans to ensure that the work commissioned by the Essen and Cannes European Councils on employment, EMU and the fight against fraud would be completed in time for ministerial discussion at the 27 November ECOFIN.

The Council adopted the 1995–96 broad economic guidelines which had been endorsed by the Cannes European Council.

The Council agreed, voting by a modified form of qualified majority voting, confidential recommendations to each of the member states with an excessive deficit, with a view to those member states bringing their excessive deficits to an end within a given period.

The Council reached political agreement on a regulation to introduce harmonised consumer price indices. Formal adoption will take place at a future Council once the European Parliament's opinion has been received.

The Council discussed a draft directive on cross border credit transfers. No conclusions were drawn and the dossier was remitted to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for further consideration.

The Council discussed a proposal for a reduced rate of VAT on cut flowers. There was no agreement in the Council and the presidency will undertake bilateral contacts to seek a solution.

The Council heard a progress report from the Vice-President of the European Commission, Sir Leon Brittan, on the World Trade Organisation and financial services negotiations.

Governor of the Bank of England (Meeting)

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next plans to meet the Governor of the Bank of England to discuss prospects for the United Kingdom economy. [32560]

Mr. Waldegrave: My right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor will next meet the Governor for his regular monthly monetary discussion on 27 July.

Valuation Office Agency (Leeds)

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on his future plans for the Valuation Office (Inland Revenue) accounts unit, currently located in Leeds. [33546]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* The work which the Valuation Office agency's Leeds accounts unit currently undertakes is under review as part of proposals to introduce a new accounting system into the agency next year. There is no intention to close the unit, but the range of its activities is likely to be reduced. This will not affect standards of service to the public, with whom the unit has no direct dealings. Any surplus staff will be redeployed locally on to other agency work.

NATIONAL HERITAGE

National Lottery

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will list every project which has received over £1 million from the proceeds of the national lottery; and if she will make a statement. [33677]

Mr. Sproat: Twenty five projects have benefited from lottery awards of over £1 million and are as follows:

Region	*Body*	*Recipient*	*Location*	*Amount £*
England	Sports	Three Rivers District Council	Herts	1,043,000.00
England	Arts	Nottingham Media Centre Ltd.	Nottingham	1,320,000.00
England	Arts	Eastleigh Borough Council	Hants.	1,380,000.00
England	Sports	South Shropshire District Council	Shropshire	1,432,500.00
England	Arts	Scarborough Theatre Development Trust	Scarborough	1,480,000.00
England	Arts	Sadlers Wells Theatre	London	1,500,000.00
England	Sports	Woodspring District Council	Avon	1,574,000.00
England	Arts	South Holland District Council	Lincolnshire	1,698,000.00
England	Sports	Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council	Northumberland	1,712,000.00
England	Sports	Lancaster City Council	Lancs	1,900,000.00
Wales	Arts	The Cardiff Old Library Trust	Cardiff	2,000,000.00
England	Sports	Poole Borough Council	Dorset	2,150,000.00
England	Arts	Borough Council of King's Lynne and West Norfolk	Norfolk	2,236,000.00
England	NHMF	Highcliffe Castle	Dorset	2,650,000.00
England	Sports	University of Bath	Avon	2,662,000.00
England	Sports	Wolverhapton Borough Council	West Midlands	3,185,500.00
England	Sports	Sail Training Association	Cleveland	3,500,000.00
England	Sports	Newcastle City Council	Tyne and Wear	3,500,000.00
England	Arts	Ikon Gallery	Birmingham	3,676,000.00
England	Arts	City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Society	Birmingham	3,729,305.00
England	Sports	Royal Albert Dock Trust	Inner London	3,750,000.00
England	Sports	Jubilee Sailing Trust	Hants	4,068,000.00
England	Arts	Cambridge Arts Theatre Trust	Cambridge	6,640,000.00
Scotland	NHMF	National Trust for Scotland-Mar Lodge Est.	Cairngorms	10,200,000.00
England	NHMF	Sir Winston Churchill Archive Trust	Cambridge	13,250,000.00
Total				82,236,305.00

Mr. Dykes: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what plans she has to discuss the mathematical and prize coefficients with the organisers of the national lottery. [34045]

Mr. Sproat: I have no such plans.

Television (Sporting Rights)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how the Government propose that the BBC and ITV can meet the increasing costs of sporting rights without damaging programme-making. [34331]

Mr. Sproat: It is for the BBC and ITV companies to decide how to balance expenditure on programme making against the acquisition of programmes or sports rights from the revenues available to them.

BBC (Debt)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the National Heritage if it is the policy of Her Majesty's Government that the BBC should reduce its debt; and if she will make a statement. [34330]

Mr. Sproat: In the light of a report by independent consultants, Touche Ross, the Government announced on 4 November 1993, *Official Report*, columns *309-10*, that changes in the television fee would continue to be set at the level of RPI changes for the next three years. It was considered that this would enable the BBC to channel efficiency savings into programmes and allow it steadily to reduce and largely to eliminate its annual borrowing by the end of 1996–97. This policy was reiterated in the July 1994 White Paper on the future of the BBC.

Churches (Subsidence Damage)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will list the churches by name and location that are suffering damage from mining subsidence; what discussions she has had with the Church authorities; and if she will make a statement. [32998]

Mr. Sproat: My Department does not keep a list of such cases and has had no recent discussions on the subject. Where a building is affected by mining subsidence, the owner can claim compensation from the mine operator. In the case of an Anglican church, such a claim would normally be lodged by the incumbent and the parochial church council. I understand that the Council for the Care of Churches and individual parochial church councils discuss problems with mining operators as and when the need arises.

BBC (Transmission Services)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage when she will announce the Government's decision on ownership of BBC transmission services. [34067]

Mr. Sproat: In due course.

Internet

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what plans she has to make departmental publications available on the Internet; and if she will give the Internet address of such documents as are available. [34070]

Mr. Sproat: The Department of National Heritage is considering the use of the Internet to distribute material. There are no plans at present to make any Departmental publications available on the Internet. Department of National Heritage press notices are available from the COI on http://www.coi.gov.uk/coi/depts/GHE/GHE.html.

FM Licences

Mr. John Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will lift the ban upon radio stations holding more than one FM licence in major urban areas. [33822]

Mr. Sproat: No. This measure provides an important safeguard for plurality in major urban areas.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Fish-eating Birds (Research Contracts)

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what contracts for research into the problem of predation by fish-eating birds have now been let. [32546]

Mrs. Browning: The Ministry and the Department of the Environment are in discussion with the following contractor consortia about the projects listed against their names:

Contractor	*Project*
Directorate of Fisheries Research, ADAS, Glasgow University, British Trust for Ornithology and the Central Science Laboratory	Assessment of the problem of fish-eating birds in inland fisheries in England and Wales
John Moores Liverpool University and Hull International Fisheries Institute	Case studies of the effect of fish-eating birds on inland fisheries in England and Wales
Central Science Laboratory, Directorate of Fisheries Research, ADAS, British Trust for Ornithology and Glasgow University	Assessment of the effectiveness of different management measures on controlling damage by fish-eating birds to inland fisheries in England and Wales
British Trust for Ornithology, Directorate of Fisheries Research, ADAS, Central Science Laboratory and Glasgow University	Population distribution and movement of fish-eating birds in Great Britain
Wildlife and Wetlands Trust, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology and Institute of Freshwater Ecology	Feeding behaviour of fish-eating birds in Great Britain

No contracts have yet been let pending the outcome of these discussions.

Animal Welfare

Sir Terrence Higgins: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food pursuant to his answer of 18 April, *Official Report*, column *104*, what consideration led him to conclude that EC directive 91/628 does not apply to roll-on/roll-off ferries. [26149]

Mrs. Browning *[holding answer 25 May 1995]:* Directive 91/628 contains various provisions which unambiguously apply to roll-on/roll-off ferries, and we have applied them.

However, with regard to the requirement for isolation pens to be provided when animals are transported by sea, the intentions of the directive in relation to roll-on/roll-off ferries are not clear. The Department concluded that isolation pens need not be provided on such ferries in the light of practical considerations and of the fact that the availability of such pens would only very rarely indeed be of benefit in animal welfare terms.

I am now reviewing the practicalities of the position to see whether there is anything more we could or should do, with the other member states involved, to improve welfare provisions on the rare occasions when animals may be found to be sick or injured during roll-on/roll-off transport.

Industrial Fishing (Denmark)

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what action his Department is taking to reduce industrial fishing by Denmark in the North sea. [32547]

Mr. Baldry: The latest available statistics show that catches by Danish vessels of sandeels and Norway pout—which are the main species of the North sea industrial fishery—were some 35 per cent. down on the previous year. None the less, the impact of industrial fishing needs to be better understood. We have been pressing for more scientific work to be done and the UK supported the recommendation of the recent North Sea Conference that there should be more research into the effects of industrial fishing. Such research will assist the European Commission to bring forward appropriate proposals for the better management of this fishery.

Bees

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what figures are available to this Department indicating what proportion of the species of single bees recorded in the United Kingdom in the 19th century are still extant in Britain; and what proposals he has to study the pollination consequences of species demise on vegetation and crops. [33296]

Mr. Boswell: I have no information about the number of species of feral bees, to which I understand the question refers, in the 19th century or now. The Government's responsibility under the Bees Act 1980 and the Bees Diseases Control Order 1982 is to ensure that beekeepers do not introduce or spread bee diseases. Although feral bees have a role to play, a healthy population of managed bees will ensure the pollination needs of insect pollinated agricultural and horticultural crops as well as for wild flowers and plants.

Waste Spreading Schemes

Mr. Pike: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on what grounds his Ministry has designated waste spreading schemes on agricultural land, including ecologically sensitive areas, as permitted agricultural development. [33612]

Mr. Boswell: The designation of waste spreading schemes, whether as permitted agricultural development or not, is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment. Questions on that matter should therefore be addressed to him.

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what assessment he has made as to whether United Kingdom interests are adequately represented on the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation. [33333]

Mr. Baldry: The European Commission represents the European Union at meetings of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO). The United Kingdom is fully represented on the European Union delegation, and I am satisfied that our interests are adequately represented at NASCO meetings.

Common Agricultural Policy (Fraud)

Ms Quin: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when the European Union Agriculture Council last discussed the question of common agricultural policy related fraud. [33610]

Mr. Baldry: Fraud against the EU budget, which includes the CAP, is more appropriate to the European Council of Finance Ministers, which discusses Community anti-fraud initiatives regularly, the last occasion being 19 June. In the Agriculture Council, reducing the scope for fraud forms an important part of the Council's consideration of all new proposals or any amendments to existing CAP legislation.

Sheep Dip

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what correspondence he has on the subject of the Veterinary Products Committee's response to the Health and Safety executive's research report (NO 74/1995) on the neurological effects of sheep dip; and if he will make a statement. [33772]

Mrs. Browning: My right hon. and learned Friend's predecessor received a letter from the chairman of the Veterinary Products Committee, submitting its advice following consideration of the report from the Institute of Occupational Health, commissioned by the Health and Safety executive. A copy of that letter, together with the committee's advice, is in the Library of the House. We have received no other correspondence on the VPC's response.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans he has to aid the introduction of alternatives to organophosphate sheep dips. [33774]

Mrs. Browning: The development of alternatives to organophosphorus sheep dips is a commercial matter for the veterinary pharmaceutical industry. The Government have previously made it clear that the Veterinary Medicines Directorate will do all it can to complete assessments of such products expeditiously and that when they contain new active ingredients, it will also strive to speed the necessary approval of maximum residue limits through the EC Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products. That remains the case. A number of alternatives non-organophosphorus products are now available.

Veterinary Products Committee (Minutes)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will list the meetings and topics discussed at each of the Veterinary Products Committee meetings for the last six months; and if he will place a copy of the agendas and minutes in the Library. [33771]

Mrs. Browning: The Veterinary Products Committee has met on the following dates during the last six months: 19 January 1995, 16 February 1995, 16 March 1995, 20 April 1995, 18 May 1995 and 15 June 1995.

In accordance with the committee's normal practice, a news release was issued after the meeting, reporting on the topics discussed. Copies are available in the Library of the House. The agenda and minutes of the committee's meetings contain commercially confidential material and cannot be made available.

Intervention Board

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he has completed the three-year review of the Intervention Board executive agency, and if he will make a statement. [34471]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Scotland and for Wales and my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and I have considered and approved a full evaluation of the Intervention Board executive agency, which has been operating as an executive agency since April 1990 in accordance with the Government's commitment to evaluate next steps agencies. The evaluation concluded that the agency successfully met its objectives in its first three years of operation and should continue for a further five years, at which time another evaluation will take place. I have today placed in the Library copies of the agency's evaluation and framework documents.

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how the Intervention Board performed against its targets for 1994–5; and what key performance targets Agriculture Ministers have set the agency for 1995–96. [34472]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: The Intervention Board's performance against its key targets in 1994–95 was as follows:

1994–95

	Target (per cent.)	*Performance (per cent.)*
Percentage of claims processed within deadlines	98.5	99.9
Percentage of claims processed correctly	98.5	98.7
Cumulative running cost of efficiency gains	2.5	3.6
Improvement in index of productivity	6.0	–0.5
Ratio of disallowance to EAGGF funds handled	0.40	0.96
To maintain expenditure within vote provision cash and running cost limits	—	Met
New value for money saving in procurement of goods and services	5.0	6.7

In agreement with my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Scotland and for Wales and my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. I have set the following targets for 1995–96:

	Target (per cent.)
Percentage of claims processed with deadlines	98.5
Percentage of claims processed correctly	98.5
Cumulative running cost efficiency gains	2.5
Improvement in index of productivity	6.0
Ration of disallowance to EAGGF funds handled	0.40
To maintain expenditure within vote provision, cash and running cost limits	
New value for money savings procurement of goods and services	6.0

Yield: cost ratio of anti-fraud activities 3.0:1.0

Live Animal Exports

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what is the total figure of all live exports for immediate slaughter for each year from 1992 to date. [33977]

Mrs. Browning: The available information is given in the table, which excludes 1993 for which no figures were available.

Animals inspected and certified as fit for transportation prior to export from Great Britain to other member states for immediate slaughter

	1992	*1994*	*1995 (to May)*
Cattle	115	233	nil
Sheep	326,777	76,039	4,126
Pigs	691	8,762	nil
Goats	150	1	nil
Totals	327,733	85,035	4,126

Sources:

1. Annual Report of the Chief Veterinary Officer (for 1992).
2. ANIMO computer system figures for 1994 and 1995 (provisional and subject to change).

London Commodity Exchange (Cocoa)

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans his Department has to review the decision to sell the United Kingdom's share of the buffer stock of cocoa beans in the light of the New York Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange's takeover bid for the London Commodity Exchange. [34312]

Mr. Baldry: None. The question of any possible future changes in the London Commodity Exchange has no bearing on the decision to liquidate the cocoa buffer stock.

DEFENCE

EDS (Departmental Contracts)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the contracts that his Department has with the computer company EDS. [33173]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Ministry of Defence has a number of current contracts with EDS Defence Ltd. but details of the individual contracts are a matter of commercial confidentiality between the Department and the company.

Astra Holdings (Ministerial Connections)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if any individual occupying a ministerial position at the Ministry of Defence at any time since 1979 has had any connections or material influence on the running of Astra Holdings plc. [33919]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I know of no evidence that any hon. Member appointed to a ministerial position at the Ministry of Defence since 1979 has failed to comply with the requirements of Questions of Procedure for Ministers. I cannot answer for the activities of hon. Members before they became Ministers.

Nuclear Weapons Testing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what alternatives exist to nuclear testing; and if he proposes to hold any tests of United Kingdom nuclear weapons. [34187]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I have nothing to add to the replies given to the hon. Member for Worcester (Mr. Luff) on 4 July, *Official Report*, column 135 and to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark) on 10 July, *Official Report*, column *469*.

Ministry Property Sales

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 10 July, *Official Report*, column *469*, on how many occasions his Department has monitored what has since happened to old Ministry of Defence properties; and if he will provide details. [34291]

Mr. Soames: All houses sold at a discount through the sales to service men scheme or under alternative right-to-buy arrangements include a provision for some of the discount to be repaid in the event that they are resold within a specified period. In addition, some form of clawback arrangement may be included if houses are sold in bulk or as part of a larger sale. Although no central record is kept of such sales, my noble Friend, the then Under-Secretary of State for Defence, wrote to the hon. Member for Leeds, Central (Mr. Fatchett) on 8 June listing those completed in the previous 12 months which included a clawback arrangement. A copy of his letter was placed in the Library of the House.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33429]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Staff are required to report to line management any private investment in companies with which they have official dealings. No central records are maintained, but cases of doubt are referred to a central point for decision. The position on cases referred for decision in the last five years remains unchanged from the information provided in response to the hon. Member at the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee on 3 April 1995.

RAF Kinloss

Mr. MacDonald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the presence of military personnel at Kinloss during the week of 19 to 23 June was connected with the disposal of the Brent Spar oil installation. [33775]

Mr. Soames: RAF Kinloss is a major military air station which, at any one time, has a substantial military presence, with personnel engaged on various activities. Responsibility for upholding the law during the Shell operation to dispose of the Brent Spar oil platform rested with the Grampian police. Military personnel would have become involved only if the police had requested this and, in the event, no such request was forthcoming. Contingency arrangements were, however, put in place in anticipation of a possible police request for service logistical assistance and a Royal Marine detachment and supporting elements were deployed to Kinloss against this contingency.

Land Mines

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the recent report by the United Nations Secretary General which calls for a total ban on the export of anti-personnel land mines. [34211]

Mr. Arbuthnot: We support international efforts to strengthen controls on the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel land mines, but believe that total ban at this stage would neither secure broad international agreement nor be properly implemented.

Bosnia (Troops Insurance Cover)

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what insurance cover is available for British troops serving in Bosnia; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of cover available for British troops. [34240]

Mr. Soames: British service personnel serving in Bosnia have available to them the PAXplus personal accident insurance scheme which provides cover 365 days a year 24 hours a day whether on or off duty. This scheme, started in 1989, and arranged through a commercial broker and insurance company, provides a range of benefits covering both death and disability as a result of an accident with the level of cover dependent on the number of units purchased by the service man or woman.

The PAXplus scheme was set up specifically for service personnel and provides cover for military service of any kind up to and including general war. The conditions of the policy are therefore considered satisfactory while the amount of financial cover available is a matter for individuals to assess and the number of units that an individual chooses to purchase. Service personnel are of course free to take out appropriate insurance.

Each of the three services run small voluntary life schemes which make immediate payments in the event of a death. Also there are service personnel who will be members of schemes set up prior to PAXplus which will provide accident and death benefits.

EF2000 Programme

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the German Parliament's approval of funding for EF2000. [34212]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Bundestage approval of additional funds for the reorientated development phase of the Eurofighter 2000 programme was given on 28 June. This has cleared the way for the four partner nations to sign memorandum of understanding 4 which puts into formal effect the "reorientation" of the project as agreed by Defence Ministers in December 1992.

Army Attack Helicopters

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce the order for the Army attack helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [34213]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made earlier today by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence.

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will specify the criteria used by his Department to decide the procurement of Army attack helicopters. [34239]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The attack helicopter contenders have been carefully assessed against the criteria of operational effectiveness, through-life costs, risk and industrial implications.

Royal Yacht Britannia

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his policy concerning the future of the royal yacht Britannia. [34210]

Mr. Soames: As announced on 23 June 1994, *Official Report*, column *248*, HMY Britannia is to be decommissioned in 1997. We are currently examining various options for her future use after she has been withdrawn from service. We hope to find a way of enabling her to continue to serve a useful purpose for the nation, even though she will no longer go to sea. Her Majesty the Queen's views will be sought before any decision is taken on this matter.

Procurement Policy

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what response he has made to representations by his French counterpart regarding a European preference, in buying weapons, from members of a European armament agency; and if he will make a statement. [34241]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence has received no formal representations from his French counterpart on this matter. The United Kingdom maintains a policy of seeking value for money in procurement and of open competition whenever possible.

Indonesia

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what were the provisions of the memorandum of understanding signed in November 1991 by the British and Indonesian Governments and referred to in his answer to the hon. Member for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley (Mr. Foulkes) of 27 October 1992, *Official Report*, columns *614–15*. [34316]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I have nothing to add to the answer I gave on 3 July, *Official Report*, column *90*.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 14 July 1995

DEFENCE

Computer Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34550]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

European Procurement Collaboration

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his policy concerning European procurement collaborations. [34543]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The UK actively pursues defence equipment collaboration with our European allies when collaboration offers value for money and satisfies our military requirements.

Advisers

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his special adviser has previous connections with defence companies. [34542]

Mr. Portillo: My special adviser, Alison Broom, has been a public affairs consultant during two phases of her career. Between 1 September 1993 and 20 July 1994 one of her clients was Rolls-Royce plc.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if Mr. David Hart will remain as his independent adviser; and if he will make a statement. [34541]

Mr. Portillo: Yes.

BMARC

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list all the applications for export licences for military equipment made by BMARC since 1985 which were examined by his Department in conjunction with the export control office. [30524]

Mr. Nelson: I have been asked to reply.

As a matter of course, my Department circulates all export licence applications dealt with under the military list to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and to the Ministry of Defence.

BMARC made the following export licence applications from 1985 to 1990. All were dealt with under the military list.

	Number
1985	144
1986	128
1987	171
1988 BMARC	126
1988 Astra Defence Systems	3
1989 BMARC	50
1989 Astra Defence Systems	43
1990 Astra Defence Systems	172
1985–90 Total	837

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Legal Aid

Mr. Byers: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will state for each year the gross Crown court legal aid expenditure by each regional legal aid board for the last five years. [32901]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The information cannot be provided in the form requested because Crown court legal aid expenditure is administered by the Court Service, not by the legal aid board. The table shows gross Crown court legal aid expenditure by administrative circuit for each of the last five years.

£ million

	1990–91	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Midland and Oxford	21.479	23.475	28.615	32.700	40.285
North Eastern	15.041	18.859	20.642	23.476	24.672
Northern	19.017	24.208	29.335	29.619	34.341
South Eastern	77.114	90.670	108.805	113.528	113.421
Wales and Chester	7.682	10.199	11.237	14.395	19.383
Western	14.513	16.770	19.124	19.311	24.989

Computer Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34558]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The chief executives of the Land Registry and the Public Record Office will respond on behalf of their agencies, which are separate Departments.

For my Department, including the Court Service and Public Trust Office agencies, the information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided for all five years only at disproportionate cost.

On the best information available, a list of the top 10 suppliers, and the value of computer equipment provided, is attached for the last financial year.

Supplier	*Value £*
Siemens Nixdorf Ltd.	3,514,310
Bull Information Systems	1,144,777
HMSO	824,902
Digital Equipment Co Ltd.	664,111
Computacenter	305,325
Mitech Europe Ltd.	69,222
Digital Computer Services	58,138
Action Computer Supplies	57,342
Hewlett Packard Ltd.	44,200
Cray Communications Ltd.	33,086

Letter from John Manthorpe to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 14 July 1995:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION—SUPPLIERS OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

I have been asked by the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department to reply to your recent question about the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment, and the total value of the contracts received, in each of the last five years.

The Annex enclosed lists the top 10 suppliers and the total cost of computer equipment supplied during the five year period. Data for 1990/1 and 1991/92 is not held in a form which would enable full information to be provided for those years without disproportionate cost. However the largest supplier during those years has been shown, together with the annual cost of equipment. This relates to mainframe purchases to support the land registration application processing system, a major government computing installation.

I do hope that this answers the points raised with the Parliamentary Secretary, but please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Top 10 suppliers of computer equipment (hardware) for each of the last five years

1990–91[1]		*1991–92*[1]		*1992–93*		*1993–94*		*1994–95*	
IBM	5,931,638	IBM	6,676,212	ICL Nokia Data	1,211,825	ICL Nokia Data	1,029,705	IBM	1,693,623
				IBM	734,354	IBM	503,939	ICL Nokia Data	1,454,286
				Pragma Ltd.	186,142	Storagetek	195,050	Memorex Telex	540,411
				Dell Computer Corporation.	41,925	Dell Computer Corporation.	51,219	Storagetek	321,950
				Dynatech Communications Ltd	31,175	Dynatech Communications Ltd.	49,080	Dell Computer Corporation.	189,474
				Fivemere Ltd.	25,053	Pragma	31,278	Intergraph	142,367
						Specialist Computer Centres	20,774	Computacentre	107,274
				Computacenter	6,056	Computacenter	19,648	Specialist Computer Centres	86,329
				Technology Plc	2,795	Technology Plc	17,220	Fivemere	24,851
				Intergraph (UK) Ltd.	1,175	Intergraph (UK) Ltd.	13,867	Dynatech Communications Ltd.	2,375

[1](See Letter)

Letter from Dr. Elizabeth Hallam Smith to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 14 July 1995:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION: SUPPLIERS OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT In the absence of the Chief Executive, who is on leave, I have been asked by the Lord Chancellor's Parliamentary Secretary to reply to your question about the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to the Public Record Office and the total value of the contracts.

The top 10 suppliers of computer equipment in the last five years were:

1. Logica UK
2. Bull Information Systems Ltd.
3. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd.
4. Optichrome Computer Systems Ltd.
5. Computer World
6. Equanet Ltd.
7. Technology plc
8. HMSO
9. Syntax Integration Ltd.
10. Simmons MaGee

The total value of the contracts in the last 5 years was £2,374,100.

PRIME MINISTER

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what precedents he relied on for the creation of a Deputy Prime Minister; which of the previous Deputy Prime Ministers were Minsters without departmental portfolio; how many of these chaired Cabinet committees; and what committees were involved. [34204]

The Prime Minister: The following are precedents for a Minister acting as Deputy Prime Minister:

Name	*Period in office*
The right hon. Clement Attlee (also Secretary for the Dominions 1942–43; Lord President of the Council 1943–45)	19 February 1942 to 23 May 1945
The right hon. R. A. Butler (also First Secretary of State and Minister in charge of The Central African Office)	13 July 1962 to 18 October 1963

Name	*Period in office*
The right hon. (Viscount) William Whitelaw (also Home Secretary 1979–83; Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords 1983–88)	4 May 1979 to 10 January 1988
The right hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe (also Lord President of The Council and Leader of the House of Commons)	24 July 1989 to 1 November 1990

As I have previously stated, it is not the practice to release the details of Cabinet committees of previous Administrations.

Conservative Party Leadership Campaign

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what was the cost to public funds of entertainment or travel expenses incurred in his campaign for the leadership of the Conservative party. [34203]

The Prime Minister: Any additional costs to the public purse were de minimis and in accordance with long-standing practice; no charge will be levied.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as "www.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34683]

The Prime Minister: I refer to the hon. Member to the reply given today by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Ministerial Salaries

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister what annual salary the Prime Minister is currently *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* drawing. [34003]

The Prime Minister: I refer to the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull, North (Mr. McNamara) on 9 June 1995, *Official Report*, column *345*.

"List of Ministerial Responsibilities"

Mrs. Ann Taylor: To ask the Prime Minister which Government Minister will be responsible for publishing a revised edition of "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" taking into account the recent changes in responsibilities announced in his recent Government reshuffle. [34575]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to her by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster today.

NATIONAL HERITAGE

Sports Policy

Dr. Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will make a statement on Government sports policy. [34286]

Mr. Sproat: The Government have today published a sports policy statement, "Sport: Raising the Game", which sets out our ideas for a new deal for sports at all levels. All right hon. and hon. Members have been sent a copy and copies are also available in the Vote Office.

Sport is important because it is part of our heritage. It teaches us lessons for life such as team spirit and sportsmanship and playing within rules. It is also vital as a means of introducing young people to a healthy way of life.

It is, therefore, the Government's objective to expand the opportunities to take part in sport, particularly for the young, and to provide the means for people of all abilities and ages to fulfil their sporting potential. The Government believe the time is right for this initiative because, from 1 January 1996, the new United Kingdom and English sports councils will replace the Great Britain Sports Council to work alongside those which already exist in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and to help to deliver our objectives. British sport will also be one of the biggest winners in the national lottery: 440 sports projects across the UK have already been awarded £74,262,000 of lottery money.

I should confirm that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland will be launching today his document entitled "Scotland's Sporting Future: A New Start" setting out proposals geared to raising the profile of sport in schools and beyond in the light of Scotland's needs and circumstances. Copies of his document are being sent to all Scottish Members.

Schools

"Raising the Game" sets out a four-point plan, which starts in schools. It is in school that lessons can be learnt about sport's potential for enjoyment, health and the development of social skills.

The new national curriculum ensures that physical education continues to be one of only five subjects which pupils of all abilities must study throughout their school life. It also gives an enhanced position to competitive sport, including team games. However, the Government believe that school sport should go well beyond what is required by the national curriculum. The recent curriculum review has freed more time for schools to use at their discretion, and the Government now wish to see two hours of formal lesson time devoted to PE and sport in all schools.

Schools must also provide opportunities for sport outside formal curriculum time, be it in lunchtimes, in the afternoons and evenings or at weekends and in the holidays. It should form a continuum with the formal PE curriculum, and there should be a clear expectation that all pupils who want to are able to play games outside school hours.

The Government also believe it is important for parents to know what is available from individual schools and how they measure up to the best. We will require schools

to include details in their annual prospectuses of their sporting aims and provision for sport, and to record in their governors' annual report these aims and their sporting achievements during the year. Schools and others with an interest will be consulted on what information will be most useful to parents and the community.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Employment has asked the Office for Standards in Education to carry out more detailed inspections of the quality and range of games both in and out of the curriculum. Her Majesty's chief inspector of schools has also been asked to report annually in future, specifically on the state of PE and sport in schools.

In order to recognise those schools which have good sporting provision, the Government will be establishing a sportsmark scheme for schools which have effective policies for promoting sport. For the most innovative schools, there will be an additional award, a gold star for outstanding achievement. A consultation paper on the criteria for sportsmark is being issued today to schools and sporting organisations.

In order for schools to improve their delivery of sport, it is vital that there are sufficient numbers of qualified and competent teachers. The recent overhaul of the teacher training system will ensure that new PE specialists have the skills to deliver the strengthened system set out in the policy statement. But the Government intend to go beyond this by introducing a comprehensive programme of action on coaching. Through this, all training and serving teachers, whatever their academic discipline, and competent volunteers, will have the opportunity to acquire coaching qualifications.

Clubs

Schools provide the basis for a lifetime of sporting enjoyment but they cannot operate alone. The Government wish to see schools and clubs forming links to share facilities and resources for their mutual benefit. In order to promote such links, the Sports Council will establish a challenge fund of £2 million. All schools and clubs will be able to apply to the fund which will be available for projects such as specialist coaching for pupils and coach training for teachers.

The council will also require governing bodies of sports played in schools to include provision for effective school-club links in their business plans. The Sports Council's regional offices will also have an important part to play by using their local knowledge to assist clubs and schools in establishing links.

The national lottery provides schools and clubs with an unprecedented opportunity to forge links by making funds available for improving existing facilities, building new facilities and purchasing equipment. The Government have set themselves the target that by the year 2000 all young people will have access to quality facilities, including playing fields. The national lottery provides a means of achieving that goal.

Action must also be taken to stop the loss of playing fields, which has occurred over many years. We will therefore shortly consult on a proposal that the Sports Council should be given the status of a statutory consultee on planning proposals affecting all playing fields.

The private sector also has an important part to play in the provision of sport in the clubs and schools. The Government wish to encourage business sponsorship of sport in schools and have asked the Sports Council to make this a priority. The private sector can help sport in a number of ways such as sponsoring a school team, adopting a sporting facility or sponsoring coaches to work in the schools.

Further and higher education

Many colleges and universities already have good-quality sporting facilities and offer students the chance to take part in sport both within the institution and in inter-college or university competitions. However, a more detailed picture of provision for sport and sports facilities in further and higher education institutions is needed if we are to know what more might be done. The Further Education Funding Council has therefore agreed to draw up a comprehensive analysis of sporting provision and facilities in the further education sector and report to us with recommendations for action. The FEFC will update its information annually and will require institutions to publish details of their sporting provision.

The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals and the Standing Conference of Principals have agreed to provide similar information for the higher education sector. They have also agreed to recommend to their members that potential students have available, through the prospectus or a similar document, information on the sports provision they offer.

To allow as many sportsmen and women to train and compete at the highest level while studying for higher education qualifications, a number of universities have established systems of sports scholarships. These universities provide a number of services to their sports scholars such as flexible study times and bursaries to provide for training and travel costs. To encourage the wider spread of best practice in university sports scholarships, and to encourage further private sector sponsorship, the Government are setting up a working group to look at the whole question of sport scholarships at university, and related matters of sport for students. I am pleased to announce that Sir Roger Bannister has agreed to serve as its chairman. The CVCP and SCOP have agreed to be represented on the working party. An announcement on membership will be made shortly.

Finally, the statement takes forward the process of building a real British commitment to the development of elite sport, and sets out proposals for a network of institutions to provide the facilities and services to enable those with talent to compete at national and international level.

The Government therefore want to see established a British academy of sport for top athletes. The Government envisage that a British academy of sport would offer residential accommodation, scholarships and bursaries, the highest level of training, coaching, sports facilities, sport science and sports medicine. To take this proposal forward, the Government have asked the Sports Council, and its successor bodies, to work up proposals for the academy and then, following consultation, to invite bids.

The sports councils across the UK will invite bids for national lottery funding including, if appropriate, for revenue or endowment funding.

The Government also envisage the setting up of regional centres of excellence. These would also be eligible for lottery funding.

Academies of individual sports, to be set up and run by the governing bodies of those sports, would also be eligible for funding from the lottery.

Together, the Government's radical proposals for putting sport back at the heart of school life, for encouraging a far closer link between schools and sports clubs, for setting up a national academy of sport, with the highest possible standards, and for putting more money into sport than we have ever done before combine to make this the most important day for sport in a generation.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by her Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and (i) Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33913]

Mr. Sproat: Neither my Department nor its agencies have let contracts with Coopers and Lybrand, Arthur Anderson, Grant Thornton, Robson Rhodes or Pannell Kerr Forster in the years 1993–94 and 1994–95. However, contracts with the following companies were let by my Department and its agencies during that period:

Company	*Number of Contracts*	*Total cost £*
1993–94		
KPMG Peat Marwick	2	104,200
Ernst and Young	1	4,500
Stoy Hayward	1	9,500
1994–95		
KPMG Peat Marwick	3	98,012
Price Waterhouse	1	19,000

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which her Department has been engaged since 1980. [33467]

Mr. Sproat: My Department commissioned a consultant to examine future options, one of which was privatisation, for the future of the BBC transmission service. The cost of this consultancy was £172,000.

Neither of my two agencies has commissioned any consultancy of this nature.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from her Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years of which figures are available. [33448]

Mr. Sproat: My Department was established in April 1992 and took on responsibility for funding its own consultancies in August 1992. All contracts are awarded on the basis of value for money. To date the five consultancy firms which have received the most contracts from my Department, by number of contracts and monetary value, are as follows:

Number of contracts

Consultancy firm	*Number of contracts*
KPMG Peat Marwick	6
Watts and Partners	5
Search Training International	4
Hill Samuel Bank Limited	3
Moon Communications	3

(b) Monetary value

Consultancy firm	*Value of contracts awarded (exclusive VAT) £*
KPMG Peat Marwick	332,000
Hill Samuel Bank Limited	327,000
Touche Ross	192,000
Watts and Partners	154,000
Simmons Surveys	150,000

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many contracts her Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33566]

Mr. Sproat: My Department was established in April 1992 and took on responsibility for funding its own consultancies in August 1992. Since that time my Department and its two agencies have awarded 166 contracts to consultancy firms. The total cost in each of the years for which figures are available is as follows:

Year	*Expenditure £*
1992–93	2,078,513
1993–94	2,466,753
1994–95	1,622,022

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage which firms of consultants employed by her Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33876]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* During the last year my Department has awarded contracts to several consultancy firms. Only in two instances have we paid more than £1,000 per day for the services of an individual consultant. These particular contracts were with KPMG and Hill Samuel Bank Ltd.

Mr. Alan Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from her Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33888]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* My Department was established in April 1992 and took on responsibility for funding its own consultancies in August

1992. The following computer consultants have been engaged by my Department and its agencies since that time.

Name of consultant	*Number of contracts awarded*
Sema	1
SISL	1
CCTA	[1]1
Internet Solutions	1
Profile Consultants	1
Mr. Page	1
KPMG	1
SouthBank Systems PLC	1
Simmons Survey Partnership	1

[1] Call-off arrangement.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how much her Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33858]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The Department of National Heritage was established on 13 April 1992. Since that date my Department's expenditure on computer consultancy support has been as follows:

1992–93: £201,456

1993–94: £38,000

1994–95: £231,850

1995–96: £219,000

Expenditure on computer consultancy support in the next five years will reflect business requirements and is likely to be broadly similar to that for 1995–96.

Departmental Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many staff in her Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33411]

Mr. Sproat: The Department of National Heritage was created in April 1992. It has two agencies—the Royal Parks Agency, created in April 1993, and the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, created in October 1989. Within those timeframes one member of staff—working in the central Department—has to date declared a shareholding. This is in the Lappa Valley Railway Company, Cornwall. The member of staff has not been advised to dispose of the shares held.

TRANSPORT

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34620]

Mr. Norris: Staff who are dismissed and who have more than two years' service can appeal to the Civil Service Appeal Board or to the industrial tribunal or to both.

Three cases were referred to the Civil Service Appeal Board; one was dismissed, one was withdrawn and the third is still in progress.

A further four cases were referred to the industrial tribunal; two were out of time and one is still in progress. In the fourth, the Department and appellant agreed a settlement of £900 and the case did not proceed.

Further details of costs are not readily available and I will write to the hon. Member.

Cut-and-shut Vehicles

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what review is being considered by his Department on controls to stop the selling of damaged cars with particular reference to cut-and-shut cars; and if he will make a statement. [34341]

Mr. Norris: The Road Traffic Act 1988 already makes it an offence to sell an unroadworthy vehicle, unroadworthiness being defined in terms of defects which carry potentially serious road safety implications. I am currently considering the specific issue of cut-and-shut vehicles in the context of whether any change in legislation would be justified.

Crime (London Underground)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what has been the number of *(a)* assaults and *(b)* robberies on each of the London Underground stations on the Northern line in each of the last six months; and if he will make a statement [34501]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for London Underground.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what has been the percentage change in *(a)* robbery, *(b)* pickpocketing, *(c)* indecent assault, *(d)* assault on passengers and staff and *(e)* total crime on London Underground between 1993 and 1994 and between 1994 and 1995 on an annualised basis. [34308]

Mr. Norris: The figures for 1993–94 and 1994–95, supplied by London Underground Ltd., are set out in the table.

Offence	*1993–94*	*1994–95*	*Percentage increase/decrease*
Total crime	13,928	14,999	+ 7.7
Assaults on passengers	490	359	–26.7
Assaults on staff	120	94	–21.7
Robbery	517	614	+18.8
Indecent assault	253	246	–2.8
Pickpocketing	7,286	8,352	+14.6

Traffic Calming Measures

Mrs. Golding: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has done on the impact of traffic calming measures on children's outdoor play in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [34452]

Mr. Norris: The effects of traffic calming on the way in which pedestrians, including children, use local roads is being investigated as part of our current research programme. Past research has not examined any specific effects that there might be on children's street play.

Midland Main Line

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is the estimate *(a)* of the increase in traffic on the M1 of a 20 per cent. reduction of the midland main line passenger service and *(b)* of the equivalent reduction of M1 traffic of a 20 per cent. improvement in that service. [34522]

Mr. Watts: The Department of Transport has employed consultants to study the potential for transferring road traffic on to the midland main line. The consultant's report was published last year. On the basis of these findings, a 20 per cent. increase or decrease in service frequency on the midland main line would, on average, alter the number of cars on the M1 by around one third of 1 per cent.

EUCARIS Scheme

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he is making to seek to extend the EUCARIS scheme to the rest of the European Community; and what representations his Department is making to Interpol to extend the scheme further. [34027]

Mr. Norris: The meeting of the EUCARIS Participants Board held at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on 13 and 14 June drew up a plan for informing other countries and organisations about the scheme. The agency is playing a full part in taking this plan forward in conjunction with other participating registration authorities.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many tenderers for the CTRL put forward variant bids; [34277]

(2) how many tenderers for the CTRL produced additional bids which identify essential changes in the reference design as set out in the competition overview. [34273]

Mr. Watts: All details of all the bids are commercially confidential.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what year the Government commitment as set out in the draft development agreement for the channel tunnel rail link not to upgrade existing railway lines between London and the channel tunnel to the extent they could be used as high-speed lines lapses. [34275]

Mr. Watts: I refer the hon. Member to section 8.6.1 of the "Competition Overview". The second indented paragraph states:

"any subsidy or financial assistance provided by the Government in relation to the existing routes between London and the Channel Tunnel would be limited to their repair and refurbishment, and would not encompass any improvement to allow them to be used as high speed lines".

No termination date has been set for that commitment, which will be enshrined in the development agreement.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to what extent the initial bid for the channel tunnel rail link put forward by Eurorail failed to conform with the requirements of the tender document. [34539]

Mr. Watts: All details of all the bids are commercially confidential.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is his latest estimate of the range of public subsidy likely to be required for the construction of the channel tunnel rail link. [34540]

Mr. Watts: I have nothing to add to my earlier reply to the hon. Member on this point on 6 June 1995, *Official Report* column *41*.

Signal Failures (Merseyrail)

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reports he has received regarding failures to the *(a)* the signalling system and *(b)* passenger information system on the northern line of Merseyrail; and if he will make a statement. [35022]

Mr. Watts: Railtrack has informed me that it has worked steadily to overcome the problems which it has experienced following the installation of the Sandhills system which controls the signalling on the Merseyrail lines. Up to three weeks ago it was achieving 95 per cent. performance targets. Since then performance has been badly affected by a combination of adverse weather and vandalism. Railtrack informs me that it and Merseyrail have kept local news media informed about the causes of the disruption to services.

Problems relating to the implementation of new software have delayed the commissioning of the new passenger information system on the northern and Wirral lines. Measures have been put in place to improve the standard of information available to passengers in the absence of passenger information displays and automatic public address systems. Railtrack expects to commission the customer information displays at the end of October and the phased renewal and commissioning of the automatic passenger announcing system by mid-December.

WALES

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials to public funds for each year since 1992. [32277]

Mr. Hague: The following visits were undertaken by Ministers and officials:

Year	Destination	Minister/Party	Duration /Dates
1992	United States, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong	Mr. David Hunt and 4 officials	18 days
1993	Taiwan, Singapore	Sir Wyn Roberts, 2 officials, 1 WDA representative	6 days
1993	Japan, United States	Mr. John Redwood, 2 officials and 1 WDA representative	9 days
1994	Japan	Mr. John Redwood, 2 officials and 1 WDA representative	7 days

The 1992 visit also included Regional Links engagements with the Prefecture of Oita.

These visits were undertaken to promote inward investment into Wales.

Year	Destination	Minister[1]	Duration/ Dates
1992	Italy (Milan)	Sir Wyn Roberts	2 days 16–17 November
1993	Switzerland (Zurich)	Sir Wyn Roberts	2 days 9–10 June
1993	Singapore and Malaysia	Sir Wyn Roberts	2 days 18–24 June
1993	USA and Canada	Sir Wyn Roberts	12 days 12–24 September
1993	Dubai/Abu Dhabi/Bahrain	Gwilym Jones MP	6 days 1–6 October
1994	Belgium (Brussels)	Gwilym Jones MP	2 days 16–17 February
1994	Spain (Barcelona)	Sir Wyn Roberts	2 days 14–15 March
1994	Sweden (Stockholm)	Sir Wyn Roberts	2 days 3–4 May
1994	Australia/ New Zealand	Gwilym Jones MP	8 days 31 May –7 June
1995	Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)	Rod Richards MP	3 days 8–10 November
1994	Argentina	Rod Richards MP	4 days 14–17 May

[1] On each occasion, the Minister concerned was accompanied by an official.

These visits were undertaken to promote trade with Wales. In each case, the relevant Minister headed the Welsh Office trade mission.

Year	Destination	Minister[1]	Duration dates	Purpose
1992	Paris	Sir Wyn Roberts and 1 official	1 day	One day visit to Salon International De L'Alimentation.
1992	Barcelona	Mr. Bennett and 3 officials	3 days 18–20 Feb	To participate in the Four Nations Conference on disability.
1992	Brussels	Mr. David Hunt and 2 officials	1 day	To address the Regional Development Section of the EC Economic and Social Committee.
1992	Brussels	Mr. David Hunt and 2 officials	2 nights	Opening of the Wales European Centre and a meeting with Commissioner Millan.
1993	Stuttgart	Mr. David Hunt and 2 officials	1 day	To attend part of Wales Art Week.
1993	Brussels	Mr. David Hunt and 1 official	1 day	To meet the UK Ambassador to Belgium and to have brief talks with Commissioners Steichen, Ruberti and Flynn.
1993	Liege	Sir Wyn Roberts and 2 officials	2 nights	Informal Regional Policy Council representing the United Kingdom.
1993	Dublin	Sir Wyn Roberts and 2 officials	1 day	To discuss regional links between Wales and Ireland.
1993	Brussels	Mr. David Hunt and 2 officials	2 days	To promote Trade into Wales.
1994	Paris	Mr. Gwilym Jones and 2 officials	1 day	Visit to Salon International De L'Alimentation.
1994	Dublin	Mr. Rod Richards and 2 officials	1 day	To discuss Holyhead Port.
1994	Milan	Sir Wyn Roberts and 2 officials	3 days	To sign a cooperation agreement
1994	Paris	Mr. Gwilym Jones and 1 official	2 days	To promote trade into Wales.
1995	Luxembourg	Mr. John Redwood and 2 officials	1 day	Transport Council Luxembourg Memberstate Representation.

[1] On each occasion, the Minister was accompanied by an official.

Information on costs is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Welsh Development Agency

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answer of 15 June, *Official Report*, column *661*, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's reply to the letter from the European Commission concerning the participation of the Welsh Development Agency in European development programmes. [34657]

Mr. Hague: A full reply to the points raised in the commission's letter will be made in due course, and will be placed in the Library of the House. I have, however, already placed a copy of the Department's interim response in the Library of the House.

Sickness Absence

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34624]

Mr. Hague: The latest available information is for the 1994 calendar year. 21,543 days were lost; 4.06 per cent. of the total days worked. The figures are adjusted for weekends and public holidays. Information is not available on the cost of this absence and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Computer Equipment Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34565]

Mr. Hague: The top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to my Department over the last five years were as follows: Ampersand Systems; BISS; Canon; Computercenter; Corporate Software; IBM; ICL; JBA; McDonnell Douglas Information Systems and Siemens Plessey.

The total value of the contracts over the period was £7,126,615.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34625]

Mr. Hague: Ninety, all of them voluntary. The total cost was £2.568 million.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34623]

Mr. Hague: None.

ENVIRONMENT

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34590]

Sir Paul Beresford: During the past 12 months four cases of unfair dismissal were heard by the Civil Service Appeal Board. The board found for the Department in every case. No compensation was paid and no legal fees were incurred.

The Health and Safety Executive became part of the Department on 4 July. No unfair dismissal cases have been brought against it in the past 12 months.

Sickness Absence

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34591]

Sir Paul Beresford: The following provisional information for the calendar year 1994 covers non-industrial staff in my Department, excluding Health and Safety Executive, Ordnance Survey and PSA services. All calculations have been adjusted for weekends and public holidays.

(a) 43,210 days were lost in sickness

(b) 3.04 per cent.

Source: OHSA Sickness Absence Database

The cost of this absence could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Attorney-General how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34607]

The Attorney-General: In the 12 months to the end of June 1995, one redundancy occurred in the Crown Prosecution Service, which was compulsory and involved a payment of £6,997.40

There have been no redundancies in the Serious Fraud Office, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers or Government Property Lawyers.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Attorney-General how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34605]

The Attorney-General: During the 12 months to the end of June 1995, three claims of unfair dismissal have been brought against the Crown Prosecution Service. The Department successfully defended one case on which costs of £2,951.25 were incurred in legal fees. A settlement of £5,500 was agreed in another case on which legal fees have yet to be determined. The remaining case is still pending.

No unfair dismissal claims have been brought against the Serious Fraud Office, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers or Government Property Lawyer.

Sickness Absence

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Attorney-General how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34606]

The Attorney-General: Information for the 12 months to 30 June 1995 is as follows:

Department	*Days absence through sickness*	*Proportion of days worked Percentage*
Treasury Solicitor's Department	2,256.5	2.6
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers	17.0	0.3
Crown Prosecution Service	65,391.0	4.72
Serious Fraud Office	1,597.0	4.47
Government Property Lawyers	858.5	2.89

No records are available which give figures for the cost of this absence.

Computer Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Attorney-General if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34556]

The Attorney-General: The main suppliers of computer equipment to each of the Departments for which I am responsible are shown in the table. The figures represent total expenditure during the periods shown.

	£ thousand
1990–95	
Treasury Solicitor's Department[1]	
ICL plc	154.0
Specialist Computer Centres	152.0
Computacenter	140.0
Dell Computer Corporation Ltd.	130.0
Technology plc	82.0
Olico Systems plc	66.0
P and P Corporate Systems Ltd.	34.5
Equanet Ltd.	32.0
Atlas Telecommunications Ltd	32.0
Lansdowne (UK)	21.5
1994–95[2]	
Crown Prosecution Service	
UNISYS Ltd.	1,308.0
Bull Information Systems Ltd.	466.0
P and P Corporate Systems Ltd.	193.7
Vistec Business Systems Ltd.	177.6
International Computers Ltd.	80.4
McDonnel Douglas Information Systems Ltd.	52.3
1993–95	
Serious Fraud Office	
Dell Computer Corporation Ltd.	301.0
Cedardata plc	74.1
Technomatic Ltd.	38.8
European Printing Systems Ltd.	34.8
Quantum Business Systems	33.8
Network SI Group Ltd.	33.4
Olivetti UK Ltd.	32.4
Computer Supply Lines Ltd.	32.3
Verity UK	28.4
Morse Group plc	21.9
1990–95	
Legal Secretaries to the Law Officers	
Programs Unlimited	37.0
Equanet Ltd.	28.5
Network Stations	11.9
East Central (Business Machines) Ltd.	2.3

[1] Including the Government Property Lawyers an agency established on 1 April 1993.
[2] Information for previous years is available only at disproportionate cost.

SCOTLAND

Auditors' Remuneration

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much have *(a)* health authorities and *(b)* trusts spent on auditors' remuneration in each year since 1992, by region. [34164]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Up to and including the 1994–95 financial year, the cost of auditors' remuneration and expenses for health boards and NHS trusts were met centrally. The majority of audits were undertaken by the Scottish Office audit unit whose running costs are contained within the Scottish Office's central services budget and not assigned to individual health authorities. A number of audits were contracted out to the private sector. A summary of the payments in respect of these external audit services is provided in the tables.

(a) External audit remuneration health boards

Health Boards	*1992–93* £	*1993–94* £	*1994–95* £
Fife	—	41,903	24,664
Grampian	—	39,586	44,355
Highland	[1]94,850	21,628	18,497
Greater Glasgow	—	73,948	60,800
Lanarkshire	[2]119,686	58,045	59,750

[1] Paid as a block for the audits of Fife, Grampian and Highland Health Boards.
[2] Paid as a block for the audits of Greater Glasgow and Lanarkshire Health Boards.

(b) External audit remuneration NHS trusts

Trusts	*1992–93* £	*1993–94* £	*1994–95* £
Argyll and Clyde	—	15,000	43,536
Ayrshire and Arran	19,700	35,200	35,974
Dumfries and Galloway	—	—	16,000
Fife	—	—	42,350
Forth Valley	—	—	12,000
Grampian	18,700	51,180	53,219
Greater Glasgow	—	38,700	104,552
Highland	—	24,520	38,423
Lanarkshire	—	13,600	40,899
Lothian	—	14,200	90,512
Tayside	—	16,500	54,359

Hypothermia

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many deaths from hypothermia took place among *(a)* men aged 65 years and over *(b)* women aged 60 years and over in each year since 1990, by region. [34175]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The information requested is given in the table:

Deaths where hypothermia[1] was mentioned on the death certificate, by region and islands area. 1990–1994

	Males aged 65 and over					Females aged 60 and over				
	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994[2]*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*[2]1994*
Scotland	47	31	44	35	34	72	50	47	77	62
Borders	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	0
Central	3	3	3	0	3	0	2	1	5	3
Dumfries and Galloway	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Fife	2	1	1	0	2	5	7	2	8	6
Grampian	1	2	2	4	2	4	5	4	3	7
Highland	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	2
Lothian	8	7	6	5	5	18	9	15	11	15
Strathclyde	28	11	22	17	16	32	22	15	32	25
Tayside	1	3	3	4	2	7	2	7	11	3
Orkney	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Shetland	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Isles	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

[1] World Health Organisation International Classification of Diseases (Ninth Revision) codes E901 (primary cause), 780.8, 780.9. E901 (secondary cause)
[2] Provisional

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34604]

Mr. Howard: The total number of redundancies in the Home Office, including its agencies, for the period July 1994 to June 1995 was 16. Of those, four were voluntary redundancies. The total cost of redundancy payments during the same period was £1,190,553. This includes payments made in respect of redundancies which occurred before July 1994.

Identity Cards

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Her Majesty's Government agreed to admit EC nationals to the United Kingdom by means of identity cards; what was the legislative basis for such a decision; and if he will make a statement. [34425]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: On the accession of the United Kingdom to the European Economic Community in 1972, the United Kingdom Government were required to comply with existing Community law allowing nationals of the Community to enter the territory of other member states simply on production of a valid national identity card or passport. Previous arrangements for admission on production of identity cards were governed by agreements with the countries concerned.

Since 1 January 1994 the same right has been extended to non-European Union nationals of the European economic area—currently, Norway, Ireland, and Liechtenstein—in accordance with the provisions of the European Economic Area agreement which was ratified by the United Kingdom in November 1993 following enactment of the European Economic Area Act 1993.

The right of European economic area nationals to enter the United Kingdom on this basis was implemented administratively prior to formal incorporation in United Kingdom law by the Immigration (European Economic Area) Order 1994.

Visas

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Her Majesty's Government advised the Economic Union that it would agree to the mutual recognition of visas issued by European Union states; what was the legislative basis for such a commitment; and if he will make a statement. [34426]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: A form of mutual recognition of short-stay visas issued by other member states is provided in the draft external frontiers convention, which was agreed in substance in June 1991 but has remained unsigned owing to objections by Spain to its application in Gibraltar. The draft convention was drawn up under the ad-hoc arrangements for co-operation on immigration matters which preceded the treaty on European Union, TEU.

Following the entry into force of the treaty, a revised text of the draft convention was published by the Commission in December 1993, the legal basis for which is article K3.2(c) TEU. Discussions on this text are continuing. My right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary has undertaken that the final text of the convention will be brought back before Parliament before it is signed and that the Government will not ratify the convention before the necessary legislation has been enacted by Parliament in accordance with the normal procedures.

Frontier Controls

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will seek the opinion of the European Court of Justice on the legislative standing of the declaration attached to the Single European Act on British border controls; and if it is the policy of Her Majesty's Government to seek to have the declaration transformed into a treaty clause at the 1996 inter-governmental conference. [34424]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: No, but as we have consistently made clear, we will take whatever steps are necessary to maintain our frontier controls.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34602]

Mr. Howard: In the non-prisons Home Office there were 12 appeals to the Civil Service Appeal Board and industrial tribunals. Of these, three were successful and five decisions are pending. In the Prison Service, there were 25 appeals to the Civil Service Appeal Board, of which four were successful. The total cost of legal fees and compensation in completed cases was £40,909.

Information about industrial tribunal cases involving the Prison Service is not readily available. The Director General of the Prison Service will provide these details shortly.

Computer Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34555]

Mr. Howard: My Department has awarded contracts for computer equipment to the value of £95,438,000 in the last five years. The following table shows the top 10 suppliers:

	£ thousand
TRW Inc.	25,000
ICL	18,834
Bull	13,330
Dell	13,063
Siemens Nixdorf	10,738
Apricot	3,308
Dec	2,735
Data Sciences	2,580
Misys Integrated	2,528
Computacenter	2,044

Sickness Absence

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34603]

Mr. Howard: Data for the number of days lost through sickness over the last 12 months is not readily available. The total number of working days lost through sickness in 1994 in the Home Office, including its agencies, was 499,242. This was approximately 4.5 per cent. of the total number of days worked. information on the cost of this absence is not available.

Scott Inquiry

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants are currently employed in dealing with matters related to the Scott inquiry; and what has been the total cost to date. [34641]

Mr. Howard: Work on matters related to the Scott inquiry is undertaken by staff in my Department as part of their normal duties. It is not, therefore, possible to estimate the overall cost.

Prison Operating Costs

Mr. Trend: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operating costs of *(a)* privately managed prisons and *(b)* prisons directly managed by the Prison Service. [35207]

Miss Widdecombe: Comparison of the costs per prisoner place at privately managed prisons with similar publicly managed ones indicates that costs of the privately managed prisons were 15 to 25 per cent. lower in 1993–94 than their nearest public sector counterparts. This indicates annual savings to the taxpayer of £5 million to £10 million a year for the four privately managed prisons currently operating. Further analyses will be conducted on the basis of more extended private sector experience.

Prisoners (Police Cells)

Mr. Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Prison Service prisoners are currently held in police cells. [35180]

Miss Widdecombe: I am pleased to announce that since 16 June there have been no Prison Service prisoners in police cells.

The necessary use of police cells in the north of England, mainly in the Manchester area, was brought about by population pressures in that area and the lack of appropriate accommodation, The opening of Buckley Hall and the refurbishment of accommodation at Manchester have helped us to cease the use of police cells. Their use in the future cannot be ruled out but every effort will be made to avoid this.

Trial Arrangements

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals he has for changes to mode of trial arrangements in respect of offences triable either way. [35181]

Mr. Howard: I have today published a consultation document, copies of which have been placed in the Library. The closing date for comments is 2 October 1995.

Remand Prisoners (Teenagers)

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the average and the minimum and maximum length of time which teenagers were held in prison awaiting trial in each of the last five years *(a)* in London and *(b)* nationally. [33806]

Miss Widdecombe *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 14 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question asking what was the average and the minimum and maximum length of time for which teenagers were held in prisons awaiting trial in each of the last five years (a) in London and (b) nationally.

Information is not available in the form requested, but information is available on the period spent on remand in a Prison Service establishment in England and Wales. Table 1 shows the number of 15-19 year olds on remand in Prison Service establishments in England and Wales by length of time since first reception on 31 December 1994. Table 2 shows the average completed time spent in custody. The historical information and separate information for London could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Corresponding information for all remand prisoners is published annually in "Prison Statistics, England and Wales" (Tables 2.3 and 2.4 of the 1993 edition, Cm2893) a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Table 1: Remand prisoners aged 15–19 years in Prison Service establishments in England and Wales by length of time since first reception[1] on 31 December 1994[2]

Time since first remand	*[3]31 December 1994*
Less than 3 months	1,300
Over 3 months up to 12 months	680
Over 12 months	[4]8

[1] Awaiting trial or sentence. Time since first reception on remand into a Prison Service establishment. This includes any intervening time spent on bail, but excludes time spent in police cells beforehand.
[2] Provisional figures.
[3] Rounded estimates.
[4] One of which was held in an establishment in London on 31 December 1994.

Table 2: Estimated average time spent in custody for Untried and Convicted Unsentenced prisoners, aged 15–19, in Prison Service establishments in 1994[1]

Type of custody		*Receptions in 1994*	*[4]Estimated average number of days in custody*
Untried[2]		13,056	44
	Convicted		
Unsentenced[3]		8,052	33

[1] Provisional figures.
[2] Time spent in custody before conviction.
[3] Time spent in custody after conviction before sentence.
[4] Estimated from number of receptions and population in 1994 (as measured by population on 30 June).

HEALTH

Title of "Doctor"

Mr. Stern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to provide statutory protection for the title "doctor" as used in the fields of medicine and the professions allied to medicine in order to distinguish between those medical practitioners who are legally entitled to use the term, and those for whom it is an honorific. [33476]

Mr. Malone: No. I am satisfied that the matter is adequately covered under section 49 of the Medical Act 1983.

Single Sex Wards

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he has on the number of patients who have asked to be treated in single sex wards in accordance with the January 1995 revised patients charter; and what effect that has had on their waiting time for treatment. [33345]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

Waiting Times

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish at six monthly intervals total waiting times from general practitioner referral to hospital admission, including and identifying the waiting time from GP referral to first out-patient appointment; and if he will make a statement. [33631]

Mr. Malone: No. We already publish information on waiting times for in-patient treatment on a summary basis each quarter and for individual trusts every six months. Information on waiting times between general practitioner written referral and first out-patient appointment is published in summary form each quarter and will be published for individual trusts for the fist time shortly and at regular intervals thereafter.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that any patient on a waiting list for any elective surgery who is forced by circumstance to change general practitioners or move to a new district health authority should not have to rejoin the waiting list as a new referral; and if he will make a statement. [33671]

Mr. Malone: Patients who move house or general practitioner while waiting for hospital admission may choose to stay on their original waiting list. If they choose to be treated at a different hospital the new consultant would need to assess them on an out-patient basis before deciding whether to admit, and if so, placing them on a waiting list. We would expect GPs and health authorities to try to arrange the shortest possible waiting time for such patients taking account both of clinical need and the time they have already waited.

General Medical Services, Manchester

Mr. Trend: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action he intends to take in response to the decision of the High Court of the result of the case brought by Manchester local medical committee. [35320]

Mr. Malone: A recent decision by the High Court ruled that departmental guidance in relation to cash-limited general medical services allocations to health authorities constituted a binding direction. Such sums could therefore be set only on the reimbursement of certain general practitioner expenses. Manchester family health services authority had misapplied some cash limited GMS allocations by using them to support wider primary care developments. The Department is satisfied that Manchester FHSA acted in good faith in an attempt to improve services to patients and the court found no evidence to dispute this. Her Majesty's Treasury has given approval for any such payments to be made on an extra statutory basis and to be noted as such in FHSA accounts. Guidance will soon be issued to all FHSAs following the court's ruling and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Edgware General Hospital

Mr. Dykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will re-examine the decision by his predecessor announced on 5 April to confirm and accept the regional health authority's endorsement of Barnet district health authority's recommendation to close the accident and emergency department of Edgware general hospital by April 1997; [34086]

(2) if he will make a statement on the Government's response to the local public petition against the closure of the Edgware general hospital accident and emergency department, delivered to his Department and No. 10 Downing street on Wednesday 5 July. [34085]

Mr. Malone: No. Consultation was thorough and the changes will improve services for patients.

Patients Charter

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that the service volumes and quality standards defined by contracts with health care providers and the standards and rights defined by the patients charter are binding on the providers and commissioners of health services; and if he will make a statement. [33675]

Mr. Malone: Health authorities and fundholding general practitioners are required to deliver patients charter standards and guarantees through their contracts with providers. National health service contracts should provide for arbitration in cases of non-compliance and this applies equally to service levels and quality standards agreed locally. The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 provides a formal mechanism for disputed cases to be referred to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State.

Operations

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hip replacements, *(b)* pacemaker operations and *(c)* cataract operations were carried out in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively in the last year; and what was the average waiting time for each operation in both Great Britain and Northern Ireland. [33823]

Mr. Bowis: The information for 1993–94 is shown in the table:

Finished Consultant Episodes

	Great Britain		Northern Ireland	
	Number of operations	*Average waiting time (days)*[1]	*Number of operations*	*Average waiting time (days)*[1]
(a) Hip replacement and other arthroplasty of the hip[2]	67,571	192	1,660	184
(b) Pacemaker sytem operations[2]	18,939	27	418	—[3]
(c) Cataract and other eye lens operations[2]	152,355	193	3,766	292

Notes:
[1] Waiting list and booked admission cases, excluding emergency admissions.
[2] Operation procedure codes (a) W37–W39 and W46–W48, (b) K60 and K61, (c) C71, C72, C74 and C75.
[3] 35 per cent. of these cases were either emergencies or did not have a recorded decision to admit date. Any calculation of average waiting time for this operation would therefore be unreliable.
Sources:
Estimates from, for England, Hospital Episode Statistics; for Scotland, SMR1; for Wales, Welsh Office Health Statistics; and for Northern Ireland, Hospital Inpatient System.

Disabled People (Direct Payments)

Mr. Rowe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the progress he has made towards implementing his pledge to introduce direct payments to disabled people to arrange, in appropriate circumstances, their own care. [34303]

Mr. Bowis: We announced in November 1994 our intention to introduce the necessary legislation to allow direct payments as soon as practicable. This remains our intention. There are a number of complex issues to be resolved before legislation can be introduced and my Department has set up a technical advisory group to consider these.

Car Park Charges

Mr. Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the hospital trusts which levy a charge for car parking at trust units; and if he will list them. [34573]

Mr. Bowis: This information is not available centrally.

Testicular Cancer

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many men died from testicular cancer in each year for the last 10 years, by region. [34633]

Mr. Bowis: The information is in the table.

Numbers of deaths from testicular cancer (ICD[1] 186)

Regional health authorities	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*
Northern	10	6	9	12	9	6	10	5	10	8
Yorkshire	14	8	10	10	11	18	6	9	10	10
Trent	13	11	13	18	18	9	9	14	13	11
East Anglian	4	1	5	6	3	8	4	5	7	2
North West Thames	6	14	7	1	8	2	5	4	7	6
North East Thames	6	6	7	7	8	6	8	9	5	4
South East Thames	17	7	10	16	8	9	11	2	7	5
South West Thames	12	10	6	10	11	5	4	7	4	4
Wessex	7	6	5	8	6	4	10	6	7	4
Oxford	5	4	4	3	12	8	7	9	9	3
South Western	15	9	9	9	6	6	10	7	13	8
West Midlands	20	9	7	15	16	15	15	11	9	11
Mersey	6	8	13	7	9	3	10	4	6	8
North Western	14	8	11	9	9	9	8	12	10	10
Wales	7	3	9	14	4	3	10	6	6	8

[1] International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34599]

Mr. Bowis: In the period 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995, six cases of unfair dismissal were lodged with the industrial tribunal against the Department of Health. Of these, one case was successful, resulting in compensation of £9,032.88. Of the remaining five cases, one was successfully defended, one application was ruled out of time and three cases are still to be heard by the tribunal.

Details of legal fees incurred for unfair dismissal cases are not recorded separately.

Sickness Absence

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34600]

Mr. Bowis: The estimated number of days lost through sickness in the Department of Health and its agencies during the 1994–95 financial year was 69,363. This represents 6.23 per cent. of the total working days in that financial year.

The figures have not been adjusted to exclude bank holidays, nor has any allowance been made to account for the working patterns of part-time staff. The sickness absence data is not analysed by cost.

Tendering

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 10 July at column *440*, on tendering, (1) if he will estimate the total value of contracts under *(a)* market testing and *(b)* compulsory competitive tendering; [34382]

(2) how many contracts have been notified under *(a)* market testing and *(b)* compulsory competitive tendering; and what has been their value. [34380]

Mr. Bowis: The total value of the 3,927 NHS service contracts currently logged on the NHS executive market testing database is £964 million. Of these 1,404 contracts were for catering, laundry and domestic services, with a contract value of £694 million.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 10 July at column *440*, on tendering if he will place in the Library a copy of all contracts notified to the NHS executive. [34381]

Mr. Bowis: No. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost, some is commercially sensitive and some could be released only with the permission of the parties concerned.

Chronic Disease Management Programmes

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness for asthma sufferers of the chronic disease management programme; and if he will make a statement. [34379]

Mr. Bowis: Over 90 per cent. of general practitioners are running organised programmes of high-quality care for patients with asthma.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34601]

Mr. Bowis: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State gave the hon. Member for Barking (Ms Hodge) on 25 May at column *759*.

Computer Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34554]

Mr. Bowis: For the period from April 1991, the earliest date for which figures are available, to April 1995, the main suppliers of computer equipment to the Department and its agencies were:

	£
Siemens Nixdorf	13,771,522
P and P Corporate Systems Ltd.	13,589,832
Bull Information Systems	304,193

These amounts include not only computer equipment but computer software and some implementation costs. It is not possible to separate out these amounts except at disproportionate cost. There were a number of smaller contracts with other companies, none of which exceeded £100,000 in the period.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Departmental Officials

Mr. Riddick: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many officials worked within *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Department of Employment on 5 July; and how many she estimates will be working within the new Department once the merger has been completed.

Mr. Forth: At 5 July 1995 the Department for Education employed 2,170 civil servants, of whom 432 were based in the Teachers Pensions Agency. The Employment Department group employed some 54,450 staff. The merger entails some 6,200 staff joining other Government Departments, while some 48,250 join the new Department for Education and Employment, giving the new Department a total staff figure of some 50,420.

Computer Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to her Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating to total value of the contracts received. [34551]

Mr. Robin Squire: The information requested could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what additional funding will be provided for the training of special educational needs co-ordinators to ensure they fulfil their widely extended role in identifying and assessing special educational needs. [34506]

Mr. Forth: The grants for education, support and training programme in 1995–96 includes support for £10.5 million to help schools develop their policies on

special educational needs, SEN. Eligible expenditure under this programme includes the cost of providing training or professional advice to SEN co-ordinators in schools.

Education Standard Spending Assessment

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will list, by order of the sum involved, the figure per child represented by the 1995–96 education standard spending assessment *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children in each local education authority in England and Wales. [34484]

Mr. Robin Squire: The allocations per pupil for the 1995–96 education standard spending for each English local education authority are set out in the table. Figures for Welsh authorities are a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales.

Unit Allocations for 1995–96 SSAs
Sorted in descending order of primary unit allowances

LEA	Primary (£) per 5–10 pupil	Secondary (£) per 11–15 pupil
Isles of Scilly	3,347	4,381
Hackney	3,076	4,359
Lambeth	3,066	4,463
Tower Hamlets	3,035	4,034
Southwark	2,947	4,090
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,904	3,777
City of London	2,901	9,055
Camden	2,900	3,648
Islington	2,888	3,963
Kensington and Chelsea	2,852	4,071
Lewisham	2,777	3,778
Westminster	2,750	3,637
Greenwich	2,711	3,589
Wandsworth	2,683	3,617
Haringey	2,589	3,583
Newham	2,581	3,439
Brent	2,500	3,448
Waltham Forest	2,434	3,261
Ealing	2,350	3,224
Hounslow	2,260	2,959
Manchester	2,258	3,072
Croydon	2,243	3,050
Enfield	2,234	2,941
Barking and Dagenham	2,231	2,951
Barnet	2,197	2,883
Knowsley	2,186	2,986
Merton	2,184	2,904
Redbridge	2,164	2,884
Harrow	2,147	2,898
Hillingdon	2,133	2,838
Liverpool	2,110	2,821
Sutton	2,093	2,722
Birmingham	2,083	2,794
Kingston upon Thames	2,064	2,720
Bexley	2,064	2,734
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,045	2,717
Havering	2,023	2,686
Isle of Wight Council	2,016	2,696
Richmond upon Thames	2,015	2,635
Bromley	2,013	2,678
Hertfordshire	2,010	2,663
East Sussex	2,000	2,672
Surrey	1,998	2,679
Bedfordshire	1,995	2,664
Wolverhampton	1,995	2,691
Essex	1,989	2,647
Berkshire	1,988	2,664

Unit Allocations for 1995–96 SSAs
Sorted in descending order of primary unit allowances

LEA	Primary (£) per 5–10 pupil	Secondary (£) per 11–15 pupil
Bradford	1,986	2,679
Sandwell	1,986	2,642
Coventry	1,984	2,648
Salford	1,975	2,652
Kent	1,968	2,620
Buckinghamshire	1,966	2,630
Wirral	1,948	2,606
Cleveland	1,940	2,589
Gateshead	1,937	2,601
Doncaster	1,934	2,572
Oxfordshire	1,933	2,575
Rochdale	1,932	2,608
West Sussex	1,932	2,571
South Tyneside	1,932	2,562
Hampshire	1,930	2,575
Sheffield	1,922	2,565
Oldham	1,919	2,530
Sunderland	1,919	2,549
Kirklees	1,900	2,539
Calderdale	1,896	2,527
Walsall	1,894	2,501
Cornwall	1,893	2,522
Humberside	1,891	2,509
Durham	1,884	2,512
Nottinghamshire	1,883	2,506
Norfolk	1,881	2,508
Devon	1,879	2,506
Lancashire	1,877	2,502
Cambridgeshire	1,876	2,508
Sefton	1,875	2,492
Lincolnshire	1,873	2,483
Rotherham	1,871	2,462
Barnsley	1,869	2,489
Bolton	1,866	2,488
Leicestershire	1,864	2,483
Leeds	1,864	2,480
Shropshire	1,862	2,479
Cumbria	1,856	2,470
Somerset	1,846	2,489
North Tyneside	1,845	2,483
St. Helens	1,845	2,467
Avon	1,838	2,460
Gloucestershire	1,836	2,435
Northamptonshire	1,836	2,448
Wiltshire	1,835	2,451
Dorset	1,833	2,440
Tameside	1,831	2,428
Trafford	1,830	2,420
North Yorkshire	1,827	2,422
Hereford and Worcester	1,827	2,439
Wakefield	1,825	2,421
Northumberland	1,825	2,421
Warwickshire	1,822	2,433
Suffolk	1,820	2,422
Cheshire	1,817	2,408
Bury	1,813	2,405
Dudley	1,813	2,408
Derbyshire	1,812	2,415
Wigan	1,809	2,391
Staffordshire	1,805	2,398
Solihull	1,798	2,376
Stockport	1,775	2,374
England average	1,981	2,630
Inner London average	2,890	3,894
Outer London average	2,242	2,973
Metropolitan average	1,945	2,589
Shire average	1,895	2,525

Office for Standards in Education

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what was for each school term since September 1994 *(a)* the number of primary schools informed by Ofsted they were to be inspected and *(b)* the number where inspections were actually carried out.

Mr. Robin Squire: These are matters for Her Majesty's chief inspector of schools, who heads the Office for Standards in Education. I have asked Mr. Chris Woodhead to write to the hon. Member.

Education (School Premises) Regulations

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will announce the conclusions of the review of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1981. [35179]

Mr. Robin Squire: My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Education and Employment and for Wales have concluded that the regulatory burden placed on school by the Education (School Premises) Regulations should be significantly reduced.

We therefore propose to consult on a revised set of school premises regulations which will dispense with the statutory area standards for teaching accommodation and recreation area. The change will give local education authorities and school governors more flexibility to manage school land and buildings in the interests of pupils and in the light of the facilities available.

To take account of public concern that playing fields should be preserved, however, we propose to retain minimum area standards for school playing fields. We have taken the view that these restrictions should be maintained because there may be a temptation to dispose of playing fields that schools need. That temptation does not arise in the same way in the case of teaching accommodation or recreation area.

We also intend to retain the central core of requirements in the existing regulations which are aimed at safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of pupils. In particular, we propose to retain the general health and safety requirements of the 1981 regulations and the specific requirements relating to washrooms, medical accommodation, boarding accommodation, fire safety, acoustics, lighting, heating, ventilation, water quality and drainage.

The Department will be consulting soon on a revised set of draft regulations with those in schools and local authorities who will be responsible for implementing them. Subject to the outcome of that consultation and to the approval of Parliament, we intend that a revised set of regulations reflecting the changes I have set out will enter into force from the beginning of January 1996.

To assist local education authorities and schools in interpreting and applying the regulations, my Department will continue to provide advice and guidance on the design and use of school premises.

Black Economy

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what steps he is taking to reduce the size of the black economy. [32094]

Mr. Forth: I have been asked to reply.

Employment in the black economy is minimised by reducing regulatory and administrative burdens on employers; keeping down tax and other non-wage labour costs; and by effective action against fraud. The regulatory burden on employers in the UK is lower than in the other EU countries, and non-wage cost as a proportion of total hourly labour costs are among the lowest in the OECD. The Employment Service aims to protect taxpayers' money from abuse by conducting fraud drives in areas of the economy where experience has shown fraud to be prevalent.

Advertising

Mr. Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how much has been spent on outside advertising agencies for each year since 1979; and if he will list the specific advertising campaigns undertaken by his Department, their purpose and their cost. [32477]

Mr. Robin Squire: I have been asked to reply.

The Employment Department does not spend money directly with advertising agencies, but channels its expenditure through the central office of information, which manages advertising on behalf of central Government.

Total advertising expenditure by the Department since 1979 is:

	£
1979–80	[1,3] 175,296
1980–81	[1] 6,867,309
1981–82	[1] 4,395,776
1982–83	[1] 6,186,195
1983–84	[1] 4,754,522
1984–85	[1] 3,254,828
1985–86	[1] 20,621,583
1986–87	[1] 53,241,911
1987–88	[1] 40,706,040
1988–89	[1] 30,229,606
1989–90	[1] 21,797,896
1990–91	[1] 12,293,720
1991–92	14,039,415
1992–93	[1] 5,584,560
1993–94	[1] 8,441,609
1994–95	To be advised

Notes:

[1] At constant 1994 prices.

[2] The 1979–80 total does not include expenditure by the former Manpower Services Commission as the figure is not available.

[3] The 1979–80, 1980–81, 1981–82, 1982–83, 1983–84 and 1984–85 totals do not include expenditure by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as figures are not available.

From 1979–90 a list of subject matter and specific costs is available only at disproportionate cost.

Major campaigns each year from 1990–95 are shown in the following table:

	£
1990–91	
TEC National Launch	4,214,000
National Training Awards	942,386
Career Development Loans	491,214
JobClub	980,455
Disability Symbol	447,222
1991–92	
TEC National Launch	4,272,340
National Training Awards	868,307
Just the Job Launch	1,698,048
Investors in People	447,752
Disability Symbol	608,248
1992–93	
National Training Awards	462,437
Career Development Loans	569,881
Disability Symbol	814,060
Just the Job	359,666
Employers/Job Centres	741,066
1993–94	
National Training Awards	434,032
Career Development Loans	1,242,152
Make it Your Business/IIP	1,712,579
Just the Job	1,381,333
Disability Symbol	11,053,404
Employers/Job Centres	978,723
1994–95	
NVQ/Free Your Potential	2,717,685
Career Development Loans	1,264,951
Disability Symbol	936,000
Just the Job	850,502
National Training Awards	303,355

The above campaigns have all been undertaken with a view to increasing awareness and encouraging participation in the Department's initiatives.

Social Chapter

Mr. William Powell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what calculations she has made on the impact for public expenditure of the United Kingdom signing the European Union social chapter; and if he will make a statement. [32871]

Mr. Forth: I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible to put an exact figure on the costs of the draft social chapter proposed at Maastricht because it is a mechanism for legislating rather than a body of legislation. However, there can be no doubt that accepting the social chapter would lead to legislation being imposed on the UK which would adversely affect public finances. Most important, the costs of public sector employers would be increased and the flexibility and competitiveness of British business reduced so that jobs would be lost and tax revenue reduced.

Training and Enterprise Councils

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what action she proposes to create greaterstability amongst training providers contracted to TECs. [31786]

Mrs. Gillian Shephard: I am sure that the combination of responsibilities within my new Department will offer many opportunities to strengthen our policies for training. Training and enterprise councils will continue to have a central role to play and I look forward to a very positive relationship with them. But let us be clear that TECs are independent companies and the contractual arrangements they make with their providers are a matter for them.

Career Development Loans

Mr. Bryan Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what was the total public expenditure on career development loans in each year for which figures are available in *(a)* actual and *(b)* current prices. [33148]

Mr. Paice *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* I have been asked to reply.

The programme costs for career development loans for each year since 1988 together with the equivalent cost at 1995–96 prices are shown in the table:

£ million

Year	*Actual cost*	*Cost at 1995–96 prices*
1988–89	0.650	0.901
1989–90	1.404	1.819
1990–91	3.750	4.498
1991–92	5.389	6.082
1992–93	6.884	7.472
1993–94	7.975	8.399
1994–95	9.392	9.697

Mr. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment how many applications for career development loans there were in each year for which figures are available; and what percentage of these applications were successful. [33150]

Mr. Paice *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* I have been asked to reply.

The number of approved career development loans for each year since 1988 together with the number of rejections, as provided to the Employment Department by the participating banks, and the consequent percentage of successful applications is shown in the table:

Year	*Loans approved*	*Loans rejected*	*Percentage of successful applications*
1988–89	2,762	735	79
1989–90	5,805	1,733	77
1990–91	8,054	1,767	82
1991–92	10,432	4,260	71
1992–93	10,230	3,978	72
1993–94	12,159	4,966	71
1994–95	15,169	4,790	76

Mr. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Employment what percentage of those taking out career development loans were *(a)* unemployed, *(b)* employed and *(c)* continuing students in each year for which figures are available. [33149]

Mr. Paice *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* I have been asked to reply.

The following table lists, in percentage terms, the employment status of approved career development loan applicants for each year since 1991:

Percentage

Year	*Unemployed*	*Employed*	*Student*	*Other*
1991–92[1]	31	51	17	1
1992–93	35	45	18	2
1993–94	36	42	19	3
1994–95	33	44	20	3

[1] Figures for earlier years were not collected in a comparable format.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Sexism

Ms Corston: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Government intend to give effect to recommendation No. R(09)4 adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 21 February 1990, on the elimination of sexism from language, by bringing the terminology used in legal drafting and public administration into line with the principle of sex equality. [33034]

Mr. Freeman: The Government are fully committed to the principle of sex equality. As regards parliamentary drafting, the Government have no plans to alter present practice, which is to use language that is best suited to conveying meaning clearly and simply. Within Government communications, non-gender specific language is already widely used by Departments, who follow the principles of the "Plain English" campaign to communicate with clients and staff.

World Wide Web Server

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as "www.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34674]

Mr. Freeman: My Department has been responsible for the development of the CCTA Government information service on the world wide web. Since its launch in November 1994, over 80 public sector organisations have made information available, including 15 major Departments of State and 50 agencies, business units and non-departmental public bodies.

The Office of Public Service has made available a wide range of information, including all the citizen's charters; the code of practice on access to Government information; a directory of Ministers and Whips; details of publications, services and events from CCTA—the Government Centre for Information Systems; information on HMSO'S publications, business systems and electrical trading services; and courses and services available from the Civil Service college.

My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service is today setting out the progress made to date and our vision for further developments in a speech at the CCTA's information superhighways conference. Further information on our achievements and plans can be found in the CCTA's report on information superhighways, which was placed in the Library of the House last month.

Civil Service Pension Scheme

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants contribute to the civil service pension scheme; how many people are currently in receipt of pensions; and how many people, having ceased to be employed in the civil service, will receive delayed civil service pensions. [33299]

Mr. Horam: As at 1 April 1995, some 514,000 civil servants were members of the principal civil service pension scheme. In addition, there are some 12,000 staff of other bodies who are covered by the scheme.

The number of PCSPS pensions in payment, at the end of June 1995, was 528,251. This figure includes widows and dependants in receipt of pensions. There are some 225,000 awards preserved for payment at pension age.

"List of Ministerial Responsibilities"

Mrs. Ann Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to publish a revised edition of "List of Ministerial Responsibilities", taking into account the recent changes in responsibilities announced in the recent Government reshuffle. [34574]

Mr. Freeman: A revised edition of the "List of Ministerial Responsibilities including Agencies" is currently being prepared and I shall publish it shortly. Copies of the new edition will be made available to Members free of charge from the Vote Office.

TREASURY

Public Sector Debt

Sir Peter Lloyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the cost in 1994–95 of servicing *(a)* the total public sector debt and *(b)* that part of the debt accumulated in that year. [34298]

Mr. Waldegrave: Excluding flows within the public sector, gross public sector debt interest payments in 1994–95 amounted to £22.5 billion. Central Government debt interest payments were £21.9 billion, of which it is estimated some £700 million represented gross interest on gilts issued during 1994–95. It is not possible to provide reliable estimates of debt service costs arising from other forms of debt issued in the year.

Corporation Tax (Shipping Companies)

Sir David Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the rates of corporation tax applicable to shipping companies in each country of the

European Union; and if he will make it his policy to bring United Kingdom rates into line with those elsewhere in the European Union. [33344]

Mr. Jack: The UK continues to provide one of the lowest rates of corporation tax in the European Union. Current confined main national rates of corporation tax applicable to shipping companies in each European Union country are:

Table: Main national rates of corporation tax applicable to shipping companies in the European Union

Country	*Rate (percentage)*	*Notes*
Austria	34	—
Belgium	39	Plus 3 per cent. surcharge, making an effective rate of 40.17 per cent.
Denmark	34	—
Finland	25	—
France	33.33	—
Germany	45	On undistributed profits (30 per cent. on distributed) plus 7.5 per cent. surcharge and local trade taxes (average 20 per cent., giving an average total effective rate of 58 per cent. on undistributed profits (46.25 per cent. on distributed).
Greece	Nil	Profits from shipping are not subject to corporation tax. Instead a special tax, based on gross tonnage and age, is charged on usage of a vessel.
Ireland	38	—
Italy	37	Plus 16.2 per cent. local tax, making an effective rate of 53.2 per cent.
Luxembourg	33	Plus 4 per cent. surcharge and local trade taxes (in range 8 per cent–12 per cent.), making an effective rate of 40.9 per cent.
Netherlands	35	—
Portugal	36	—
Spain	35	Plus 1 per cent. surcharge, making an effective rate of 35.35 per cent. A special regime exists in the Canary Islands which broadly grants shipping companies a 35 per cent. reduction in corporation tax, giving an effective rate of 22.75 per cent.
Sweden	28	—
United Kingdom	33	—

Public Expenditure

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide the latest estimates of the outturn of public expenditure by department on the same basis as table 6A.3 of the "Financial Statement and Budget Report" 1995–96. [34494]

Mr. Waldegrave: The latest available figures for provisional outturn for 1994–95 are published in table 1 of the public expenditure outturn White Paper for 1994–95, Cm 2903. The latest figures for earlier years are published in the statistical supplement to the FSBR 1995–96, Cm 2821. Following usual practice, figures for estimated outturn for 1995–96 will be published for the first time in the "Financial Statement and Budget Report" 1996–97 in November.

Central Statistical Office

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the Central Statistical Office performed against its key targets in 1994–95. [35206]

Mrs. Knight: The Central Statistical Office's performance for 1994–95 is described in the agency's annual report and accounts for 1994–95 which is being laid before the House and published today.

The CSO achieved 27 out of the 33 published targets, including 18 out of 19 targets relating to the quality of key economic statistics.

A number of targets for 1995–96 have been tightened and these are set out in the CSO programme strategies 1995–96 to 1997–98 which was published in April.

Public Bodies (External Audits)

Mr. Tim Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the timetable for the review of the arrangements for the external audit of public bodies recommended by the Nolan committee; who will be conducting the review; and who will be consulted during the review. [33545]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* We aim to reach provisional conclusions by the end of 1995 and then issue a consultation paper. The review is being conducted jointly by the Treasury and the Cabinet Office and covers separate recommendations which the Nolan committee addressed to those departments on external audit and on the legal framework governing propriety and accountability. The review will take account of evidence submitted to the Nolan committee but the Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service, has invited all who wish to provide further comments to do so by 30 September. They should be sent to Room 130G/4, Office of Public Service, Horse Guards Road, London, SW1P 3AL.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Upper Waiting Hall

Mr. Kevin Hughes: To ask the Chairman of the Administration Committee if he has considered an application for an exhibition relating to the British Association of Social Work, "Then, Now and Onwards" to be displayed in the Upper Waiting Hall.

Mr. Michael J. Martin: I understand that, under procedures agreed by the Administration Committee, arrangements have been made for the exhibition to be held in the Upper Waiting Hall from Monday 27 November to Friday 1 December 1995.

Mr. Pike: To ask the Chairman of the Administration Committee if he has considered an application for an exhibition relating to plastics and recycling to be displayed in the Upper Waiting Hall.

Mr. Martin: I understand that, under procedures agreed by the Administration Committee, arrangements have been made for the exhibition to be held in the Upper Waiting Hall from Monday 18 December to Friday 22 December 1995.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Winnick: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what will be the involvement of the Deputy Prime Minister in the work of his Department. [34121]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to a question from the hon. Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger) on 11 July 1995, *Official Report*, columns *496-97*.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33437]

Mr. Lang: The information requested in given in the tables. These include details of contracts let centrally and exclude those contracts let independently by the Department's executive agencies.

Company	*Number of contracts*	*Company*	*Value of contracts* £
1990			
Price Project Service	8	RSCG Conran Design	898,000
PA Consulting	7	PA Consulting	759,572
PE International	7	Strategic Sponsorship Ltd	690,000
Les Probert Associates	7	Manchester University	599,739
Coopers and Lybrand	6	Ernst and Young	369,031
1991			
PA Consulting	15	CMG Computer Management Group	1,139,750
Coopers and Lybrand	12	Price Waterhouse	1,227,335
PE International	10	P-Four Consultancy Ltd.	992,309
Touche Ross	8	Environmental Resources	839,226
Ernst and Young	8	Kermon Ltd.	737,772
1992			
PA Consulting	19	Touche Ross	2,760,230
KPMG	14	PA Consulting	836,756
Ernst and Young	10	Boyds	789,733
Coopers and Lybrand	9	KPMG	741,283
PE International	8	CSC Computer Sciences Ltd	688,070
1993			
PA Consulting	21	Crown Business Communications	2,078,349
KPMG -	17	PA Consulting	1,192,450
Ernst and Young	14	Price Waterhouse	990,083
Coopers and Lybrand	7	Scientific Generics	851,300
Price Waterhouse	6	KPMG	718,370
1994			
Coopers and Lybrand	10	Coopers and Lybrand	720,674
PA Consulting	10	PA Consulting	480,916
Ernst and Young	5	BZW Corporate Finance	380,000
Segal Quince Wicksteed	5	KPMG	378,000
Touche Ross	3	Dewe Rogerson Ltd.	360,000

Accountancy Profession

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proposals he has for democratising the accountancy profession. [33900]

Mr. Oppenheim: My primary responsiblilty is to ensure that the professional accountancy bodies fulfil their statutory duties in the fields of company audit and insolvency work.

Inward Investment

Mr. Morgan: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when he expects the latest statistics from the Invest in Britain Bureau of the number of inward investment projects coming into the United Kingdom will be published. [34634]

Mr. Eggar: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave on 13 July 1995.

Fireworks

Ms Estelle Morris: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he has for amending section 67 of the Explosives Act 1875, authorising local authorities in metropolitan areas to enforce section 31 of the Act and deal with dangerous fireworks. [32494]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: I do not consider it is necessary to amend the Explosive Act 1875 in order to empower trading standards officers to deal with any traders supplying fireworks to children apparently under 16 years of age. While enforcement of section 31 of that Act is for the police, trading standards officers have powers under the General Product Safety Regulations 1994 to prevent the supply by traders of goods, including fireworks, which are unsafe in the hands of those to whom they are supplied, for example the supply of fireworks to children under 16 years of age.

Computer Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34562]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Such information is not readily available and cannot be provided other than at disproportionate cost. However, the major suppliers from which computer equipment has been purchased over the past three years, excluding purchasing by executive agencies, are:

	Contract value £
ICL Enterprises	11.5 million
Digital Equipment Company Ltd.	1.2 million
Unisys Ltd.	750,000
Sequent Computer Systems Ltd.	250,000

A much wider range of companies has been involved in the supply of smaller, individual system requirements.

Financial Reporting

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what responsibilities he has in relation to the operations of *(a)* the Auditing Practices Board and *(b)* the Accounting Standards Board. [34101]

Mr. Oppenheim: My Department supports the work of both bodies to improve the quality of financial reporting and my officials attend their meetings as observers. My Department provides about one third of the funding of the Financial Reporting Council and its subsidiaries, of which the Accounting Standards Board is one.

Chartered Association of Certified Accountants

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will be advising the Privy Council to approve the name and designatory change of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants from CACA to CPA. [33901]

Mr. Oppenheim: The Privy Council Office will be consulting my Department about this once it has consulted the others concerned.

Audit Firms

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many audit firm partners have been barred from public practice as a result of the criticisms contained in the inspectors' reports published since 1979. [33899]

Mr. Oppenheim: This information is not immediately available. I will write to the hon. Gentleman in due course.

Scott Inquiry

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what steps he is taking to achieve the aim of closing the episodes that led to the Scott inquiry as set out in the list of principal objectives of his Department's export control and proliferation division, published in his departmental MINIS 1995 returns part 2 on 12 June. [30601]

Mr. Lang: Principal objective (d) of my Department's export control and non-proliferation division, as published in my Departmental MINIS 1995 returns part 2 on 12 June, calls for the episodes which led to Sir Richard Scott's inquiry to be closed, but in the context of a Government response to the Scott report. It would be premature for me to decide how best to close these episodes before Sir Richard Scott's report is published. Meanwhile, my Department's Scott inquiry unit is providing papers and information on request to Sir Richard Scott's inquiry, and lending factual assistance to witnesses to the inquiry.

Mr. Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if Lord Justice Scott has requested his Department to provide documentation on the role played by the N. M. Rothschild bank in assisting Iraq and Iran to obtain munitions during the Iran-Iraq war. [32884]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* Requests for information from Sir Richard Scott's inquiry are a matter for the inquiry.

N. M. Rothschild Bank

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what information has been provided to his Department by *(a)* N. M. Rothschild bank Ltd. or *(b)* Rothschild Asset Management Ltd. in regard to investment made in Chinese factories between April 1983 and June 1987; [32885]

(2) what investigations have been conducted by his Department into the funding support provided by N. M. Rothschild bank to companies based in China known to have supplied munitions to the combatants during the Iran-Iraq war. [32889]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* My Department is not immediately aware of such information; nor has it conducted such investigations.

BMARC

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to the oral statement of 13 June at columns *595-606*, who were the directors of BMARC at the time that possible breaches of export controls occurred. [29259]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 19 June 1995]:* H. M. Customs and Excise is responsible for investigating whether any breaches of export control have occurred.

The directors of BMARC for 1986-89, the period covered by the statement made in the House by my right hon. Friend the then President of the Board of Trade on 13 June 1995, were as follows:

From 1986, the directors of BMARC were Sir R. Freer, Mr. M. Funk, Mr. D. Isles and Mr. W. Leuch.

In May 1988 BMARC was acquired by Astra. Mr. D. Isles remained a director, and the following were also appointed directors: Mr. G. James, Mr. C. Gumbley, Mr. J. Miller, Mr. S. Kock, Mr. W. McNaught.

In September 1988 Mr. J. Aitken was appointed a director. In February 1989 Mr. J. Sellens was appointed a director. In July 1989 Mr. D. Isles resigned as a director.

SOCIAL SECURITY

United Kingdom Nationals

Mr. Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what provisions are in place, when assessing United Kingdom nationals under the income related benefit scheme (MISC amendment (No. 3)), Regulation 1994 and with reference to article 1 of the 1953 European convention on social and medical assistance and article 13 of the 1961 Council of Europe social charter, for Untied Kingdom nationals returning to the United Kingdom from another EU state, in line with protection offered under EU directions to non-United Kingdom nationals. [31324]

Mr. Roger Evans: All income support claimants, including British citizens returning to the United Kingdom from another member state of the European Union, and including non-United Kingdom nationals, are required to show that they are habitually resident in accordance with the provisions of the Income Related Benefit Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 1994 before they can receive benefit. Article 1 of the European convention on social and medical assistance and article 13 of the Council of Europe social charter require the United Kingdom to allow nationals of other signatory states to these conventions, who are lawfully present in this country, access to income support on equal terms with British citizens. The protection afforded under EC legislation to non-United Kingdom nationals is restricted to nationals of the European Economic Area. It applies to certain workers and former workers in this country and meets our current obligations under European Community law.

Income Support

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many unemployment benefit claimants were disqualified from benefit and *(a)* were in receipt and *(b)* were not in receipt of a reduced rate of income support during the disqualification period, for each region and for Great Britain as a whole for each quarter since April 1994, indicating those whose unemployment benefit was disqualified for (i) leaving employment voluntarily, (ii) being dismissed for misconduct and (iii) refusal of employment. [32593]

Mr. Roger Evans: The latest available information is set out in the tables. The information requested on refusal of employment is not kept separately.

Income Support recipients whose benefit is reduce because of voluntary unemployment or misconduct

Region	*May 1994*	*August 1994*
North eastern	4,000	5,000
London north	5,000	7,000
London south	3,000	6,000
South western	3,000	3,000
Midlands	6,000	7,000
North western	3,000	4,000
Scotland	3,000	3,000
Wales	1,000	2,000
Total	27,000	37,000

Notes:
1. Figures are at a point in time.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000 and so may not sum to the total given,.

Source:
Income Support Quarterly Inquiries for May and August 1994.

Unemployed Claimants disqualified because of voluntary unemployment or misconduct and receiving neither Unemployment Benefit nor Income Support as at May and November 1994

	Refused for leaving work voluntarily	*Refused for losing work through misconduct*
May 1994	1,800	600
November 1994	2,200	500

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
Table 2.2 of Half-yearly analysis of Unemployed Claimants for May and November 1994.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will re-examine the rules on severe hardship payments in respect of young people denied financial help from their families though their relationships have not irretrievably broken down. [32833]

Mr. Roger Evans: No. Benefits Agency officers take all the relevant factors into account when deciding whether a young person is at risk of severe hardship. Among the factors considered would be the young person's relationship with their parents and whether they were being provided with any financial or other support.

Contributions Agency

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what representations he has received concerning his restructuring plans for the Contributions Agency; and if he will make a statement. [32690]

Mr. Heald: The administration of the Contributions Agency is a matter for Mrs. Faith Boardman, the chief executive. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mrs. Faith Boardman to Ms Joan Walley, dated 13 July 1995:

As Chief Executive of the Contributions Agency, I have responsibility for answering questions about operational matters relating to the Agency and the National Insurance (NI) scheme. I have been asked to reply to your questions about representations that have been received concerning the restructuring plans for the Agency.

Current research has shown that there is a need to match more closely Contributions Agency Field outlets to customer requirements while still maintaining nationwide cover for administration of the NI scheme and the proposed restructuring addresses this issue.

Representations about the restructuring have been made by the relevant Civil Service Trade Unions and some enquiries about the changes have been made by the business community. The proposed changes take account of research among customers which shows, in general, that they prefer to make contact by telephone or correspondence. The Agency is engaged in a consultation process with staff to consider their views on the proposed future network.

I hope that my reply proves helpful. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) what further steps he is taking to ensure that his Department is able to meet its obligations as stipulated by the National Audit Office in relation to the collection and administration of national insurance contributions; and if he will make a statement; [33318]

(2) how many staff of the Contributions Agency are involved in *(a)* the administration and *(b)* the collection of national insurance contributions; if he will provide a breakdown by (i) region and (ii) Contributions Agency office; and if he will make a statement; [33319]

(3) what recent meetings have been held with organisations concerning the planning and restructuring exercise, business unit analysis, by the Contributions Agency; and if he will make a statement on the names of those in attendance, the date of each meeting and the matters discussed; [33320]

(4) what recent representations he has received on the planning and restructuring exercise, business unit analysis, by the Contributions Agency, what is the time scale envisaged for the completion of the exercise; and if he will make a statement; [33321]

(5) what is the number of inspectors employed in the Contributions Agency who are involved in undertaking regular visits to *(a)* employers and *(b)* the self-employed; and if he will provide a breakdown by (i) region and (ii) Contributions Agency office; [33322]

(6) if he will provide a breakdown of the offices of the Contributions Agency indicating the numbers employed at each office; and if he will make a statement. [33323]

Mr. Heald: The administration of the Contributions Agency is a matter for Mrs. Faith Boardman, the chief executive. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mrs. Faith Boardman to Mrs. Margaret Ewing, dated 13 July 1995:

As Chief Executive of the Contributions Agency, I have responsibility for answering questions about operational matters relating to the Agency and the National Insurance (NI) scheme. I have been asked to reply to your questions about the numbers of staff employed in different areas and their roles within the Agency, the arrangements concerning the current restructuring exercise and the steps that are being taken to meet obligations as stipulated by the National Audit Office. In view of the nature of the questions I have combined the responses.

Unfortunately the information is not available exactly in the form that you have requested.

The Contributions Agency is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law on National Insurance matters. In 1991 the Agency began to move towards a Field Operations network of some 184 Field Offices supported by 90 Inspector outstations. Current research has shown that there is a need to match more closely Contributions Agency outlets to customer requirements while still maintaining nationwide cover for the administration of the NI scheme. Information obtained about density of businesses, density of population and locations of the self employed, has been incorporated into the design of a new network to consist of around 100–115 locations, comprising 70–75 Field Offices and 30–40 Inspector outstations, which will meet National Audit Office requirements. It is planned that most of the changes will be in place within the next two to three years.

Representations about the restructuring have been made by the relevant Civil Service Trade Unions and some enquiries about the changes have been made by the business community. The proposed changes take account of research among customers which shows, in general, that they prefer to make contact by telephone or correspondence. The Agency is engaged in a consultation process with staff and Trade Unions to consider their views on the proposed future network.

Meetings whose Agendas have included the restructuring plans have taken place between Field Operations management and representatives of the Trade Unions on the following dates: 4 and 5 April, 2, 3 and 12 May, 12 June and 5 July 1995. Representation at these meetings involved Field senior management including the Director of Field Operations and the Business Change Manager. Trade Union representatives were from the Civil and Public Services Association and the National Union of Civil and Public Servants. Meetings have also been held at local levels between management and staff, but details of these are not kept centrally.

There are currently 8853 staff in post the Agency. It is not possible to differentiate between staff who are employed on purely administrative work as opposed to those who are involved in the actual collection of National Insurance Contributions.

The operational area in regular face-to-face contact with our customers is Field Operations, whose NI inspectors visit employers and self-employed contributors both to monitor their compliance with NI law and in an educational role. At 1 June 1995 there were 3440 staff in post in Field Operations. I regret that at this staff I am unable to supply you with up-to-date figures for the number of staff employed at each location. However, these figures are about to be collated and I will write to you again when they are available. At 31 March 1995 1780 staff held Inspectors' Warrants. Details of the number of inspectors attached to each location are not kept, but the table in Annex 1 shows the number of Warrant holders in each of the Agency's Divisions.

I regret that I have been unable to answer the precise questions that you have raised, but I hope that my reply proves helpful. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Annex 1: Number of Inspectors Warrants in issue—year end March 1995

	Number of Warrants
Northern sector	
Caledonia	70
East and West Yorkshire	66
Edinburgh	61
North Lancashire and Cumbria	48
Northumberland, Durham and Teeside	51
South Yorkshire and Humberside	59
Total	355
Midland sector	
Birmingham	61
Manchester	47

Annex 1: Number of Inspectors Warrants in issue—year end March 1995

	Number of Warrants
Merseyside	50
Midlands/North West	60
Nottinghamshire/Lincolnshire/Derbyshire	52
South Lancashire and Cheshire	61
Total	331
Eastern sector	
Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire	57
East Anglia	58
Essex	78
Hertfordshire	90
Leicester and North Hampshire	55
North Circular	72
Total	410
South Eastern Sector	
Capital	68
Central	68
Kent	46
Special Compliance Unit (Bromley)	06
South Bank	33
South Coast	45
Surrey	50
Total	316
South Western Sector	
Devon and Cornwall	53
Hants	45
Severn Estuary	56
South Circular	48
Thames Valley	48
Wales	58
Wessex	60
Total	368

Departmental Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33423]

Mr. Burt: None.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34614]

Mr. Burt: In the year ending 30 June 1995 there were 58 applications to industrial tribunals for unfair dismissal brought against the Department. Three of these were unsuccessful, six were withdrawn, two were settled before a hearing and 47 are waiting to be heard. Information on legal costs is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33452]

Mr. Burt: There have been no privatisation programmes and no costs have therefore been incurred.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33572]

Mr. Burt: The information is in the table.

Year	*Number of contracts*	*Total cost £ million*
1990–91	952	83.2
1991–92	933	69.7
1992–93	863	36.4
1993–94	971	34.0
1994–95	863	26.1

Figures for 1992–93 onwards refer solely to expenditure on consultancy services following work undertaken for the Efficiency Scrutiny into the Government's Use of External Consultants. Figures for earlier years include the costs of contracted services.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33433]

Mr. Burt: The information is in the table.

Consultancy Firm	*Number of contracts 1990–91 to 1994–95*
Anderson Consulting	536
ICL	409
PA Consulting	345
Price Waterhouse	327
Sema	428

The monetary value of contracts is restricted commercial information.

Personnel

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list separately, by each office of his Department, the numbers and grades of casuals, fixed appointments and vacancies in the Coventry travel-to-work area. [33776]

Mr. Burt: The information as at 30 June this year is as follows:

(a) Two staff employed on fixed term contracts in the Administrative Officer grade at the Nuneaton office of the Benefits Agency.

(b) One member of staff employed as an Administrative Assistant on a casual basis at the Coventry office of the Child Support Agency.

(c) One member of staff employed as an Administered Assistant on a casual basis at the Nuneaton office of the Child Support Agency.

(d) One vacancy at Higher Executive Officer grade in the Child Support Agency to be based in the Coventry area.

Market Testing

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) what representations he has received in

relation to staff *(a)* contracts of employment and *(b)* pension arrangements at SERCO Ltd, following the contracting out of operation by the Benefits Agency; and if he will make a statement; [33850]

(2) when he last met the head of Serco Ltd; what discussions took place about the staffing levels, protecting confidentiality of claimants and market testing; and if he will make a statement; [33964]

(3) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the arrangements that exist at the Benefits Agency offices in Lea Roding district in relation of processing the post; and if he will make a statement; [33965]

(4) what representations he has received in relation to staffing arrangements at Serco Ltd, following contracting out by the Benefits Agency; and if he will make a statement. [33967]

Mr. Roger Evans: This is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the Chief Executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Mike Gapes, dated 13 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about: (a) staff contracts of employment and pension arrangements following transfer to SERCO Ltd; (b) when he last met the head of SERCO Ltd; (c) discussions and representations received in relation to staffing levels at SERCO Ltd; (d) protecting confidentiality of claimants and the adequacy of the arrangements that exist at the Benefits Agency (BA) offices in the Lea Roding District in relation to processing the post.

The contract for work was awarded to SERCO Ltd on the understanding that the Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981, also known as TUPE, applied. This meant that all BA staff transferred with existing terms and conditions, except pension provisions, to their new employers.

However, prior to the award of the contract, SERCO Ltd needed to satisfy the Government Actuaries Department that the pension scheme they proposed was broadly comparable with the Principal Civil Service Pension scheme. The BA also provided the opportunity for staff who were transferring to attend advice seminars with representatives from the Government Actuaries Department prior to making any decision about their pension position. The BA has not received representations from staff who transferred to SERCO Ltd in relation to contracts of employment or pensions.

The Secretary of State for Social Security has not met with the head of SERCO Ltd. There are, however, regular monthly meetings between BA management and SERCO Ltd to discuss service delivery issues. Staffing levels and customer confidentiality have not been on the Agenda at these meetings. However, SERCO Ltd have kept BA management informed of changes and increases in their key staff. I am unaware of specific representations about staffing arrangements at SERCO Ltd in connection with the work the BA has contracted to them.

In Lea Roding District, post opening and sorting is sub-contracted out by SERCO Ltd to the Royal Mail. The post is opened by Royal Mail staff in a secure area within the sorting office.

All staff working for SERCO Ltd, and those opening the post, are required to sign a declaration acknowledging the provisions of Section 123 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, which makes it a criminal offence to disclose personal information provided for Social Security purposes.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Mr. Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what assessment he has made about the number of complaints that have been received about the delays in processing the claims at the Benefits Agency at Lea Roding district; and if he will make a statement. [33966]

Mr. Evans: This is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Mike Gapes, dated 13 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about what assessment has made of the number of complaints received at the Benefits Agency's Lea Roding District concerning delays in the processing of claims.

For the six month period 1 February 1995 to 13 July 1995 the Customer Service Section at Lea Roding District received a total of 233 customer complaints, of which five were in respect of delays in processing claims. All five of these complaints were investigated and responded to within eleven working days of receipt and four of the five delays resulted from the need for the adjudication officer to obtain additional information.

The level of complaints is closely monitored in all Districts. However, in view of your concern, I have asked the relevant Territorial Director to satisfy herself of the standard of service provided.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Mortgage Protection Policies

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is his latest estimate of the proportion of homeowners that will be unable to purchase mortgage protection insurance policies. [32046]

Mr. Roger Evans: We have made no such estimate. The Association of British Insurers and the Abbey National building society both take the view that virtually anyone who is able to obtain a mortgage should also be able to obtain appropriate insurance. We have identified certain groups such as pensioners and those with pre-existent medical conditions whose ability to obtain full insurance is questionable and we have accordingly made special provisions for such groups in the new scheme.

Sickness Absence

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many days were lost in sickness in the 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34615]

Mr. Burt: The number of working days lost due to sickness in 1994 was 1,117,263—5.37 per cent. of the number of available days. These are the latest figures available and use provisional information. Details of the cost of these absences are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34616]

Mr. Burt: During the 1994–95 financial year, 864 staff took early retirement or redundancy of which 823 were on voluntary grounds. The total cost of early retirement and redundancies borne on the Department's running costs in 1994–95 was £18.120 million.

Residential Care and Nursing Homes

Sir John Gorst: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *193*, what measures are in place to ensure that care and nursing homes do not increase their fees in excess of increases in the rates of the higher level of income support so that residents of such homes with preserved rights are not forced to use personal savings to meet the difference if fees exceed welfare payments. [34383]

Mr. Roger Evans: Under the old system of income support limits, the level of fees charged in independent residential care and nursing homes are a matter between the proprietors and the residents, or their relatives and the Government have no authority to intervene.

Computer Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received.

Mr. Burt: Information is not available in the format requested.

When buying computer equipment on this scale, in order to obtain the most competitive prices it is the practice to create a framework contract covering the major suppliers—ICL, IBM and SNI—to span a number of years: for example, a large, long-term contract for regular bulk purchases, rather than separate contracts for the large numbers of individual purchases of equipment.

Benefit Payment Card

Mr. Dewar: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security when he expects the first benefit payment cards to be issued; and when all such cards will be issued. [34442]

Mr. Heald: It is envisaged that the first benefit payment cards will be issued in 1996. The full implementation process is expected to take three years from then.

Mr. Dewar: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will make a statement on the benefit payment cards he intends to introduce with particular reference to the information carried on the cards and the methods photographic and electronic of identifying the holder. [34443]

Mr. Heald: The design and the type of security features of the benefit payment card have not been decided. Precise details will depend on the evaluation of the proposals from the potential suppliers of the benefit payment card system, including the acceptability to customers and post office staff.

Mr. Dewar: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list the firms who have been invited to tender for the introduction and operation of the benefit payment card system. [34445]

Mr. Heald: Five companies, some of which lead consortiums, were invited to submit proposals in response to a statement of service requirements. These are:

Cardlink UK
BT
EDS
IBM
ICL

The proposals are currently being evaluated with the intention of producing a shortlist of potential prime contractors with whom Post Office Counters Ltd. and this Department will enter into negotiations which we expect to lead to an awarded of contract.

Benefits Agency (Home Visits)

Mr. Dewar: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many home visits have been made by Benefits Agency staff in the course of their duties in the latest period for which figures are available; and what were the equivalent figures *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* 15 years ago. [34444]

Mr. Roger Evans: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Income Distribution

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the percentage contribution of social security to the incomes of those in the bottom 10 per cent. through to 50 per cent. of the income distribution, by decile. [33474]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell *[Holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The information is in the table.

Results for the lowest income deciles exaggerate the proportion of income from social security benefits. This is because the value of benefits received by one member of the household entitled to receive them may be higher than total net household income, after taking into account, for example, business losses by other household members. Such cases are concentrated towards the bottom of income distribution.

Contribution of Social Security benefits to the bottom five deciles of the income distribution.

Decile Group	*Social Security benefits as a percentage of total income*
Bottom	82
Second	70
Third	50
Fourth	31
Fifth	20

Notes:

1. Figures are for the United Kingdom in 1992–93—the two calender years combined.
2. Results for the bottom decile will be dominated by people in the top half of the decile since they will have the higher incomes.

Pension Splitting

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is his estimate of the cost of splitting pensions on divorce for the year 1997 assuming a long term inflation rate of 5 per cent. [32615]

Mr. Heald *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* Further to the reply given by the former Under-Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Wanstead and Woodford (Mr. Arbuthnot), the information is not available in the form requested.

Such information as is available is as follows. The Government Actuary has estimated that if pension splitting on divorce was introduced in 1997, the annual cost to unfunded public service schemes in the first full year would be approximately £500 million at 1994 prices. This estimate assumes that pensions will be split in all divorces relating to active public service scheme members, and that 50 per cent. of the accrued cash equivalent transfer valuation of each divorced member is transferred out of the scheme. No allowance is made for offsetting against other assets, and it is assumed that the current divorce rate continues. There would also be additional legal aid costs.

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what assumptions have been used to reach the figure for the cost of splitting pensions on divorce for the year 2037; and what is the figure. [32616]

Mr. Heald *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* Further to the reply given by the former Under-Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Wanstead and Woodford (Mr. Arbuthnot), splitting pensions on divorce affects the public finances through its effects on tax revenue, the unfunded public service schemes, legal aid and income-related benefit expenditure. In 2037, the main cost arises from lost tax revenue and increased tax relief on pension contributions.

Using data from the survey of personal incomes and the 1991 Government Actuary's Department occupational pension survey, Inland Revenue has estimated that allowing pensions to be split on divorce would lead to a loss of tax revenue of around £200 million per year by 2037 in 1994 prices.

This estimate assumes that pensions will be split in up to three quarters of divorces of first time marriages in which the husband has substantial pension rights and the wife has no non-state pension entitlement, and that the whole of the pension earned up to the date of retirement is split. It is also assumed that two thirds of men who are subject to a pension split on divorce will choose to at least partially rebuild their pension by making additional contributions.

The assumptions used in estimates of the loss of tax revenue in 2037 are not the same as those used in estimates of the costs to unfunded public service schemes arising in 1997. Estimates have necessarily been based on different methods using data from different sources, which has not allowed for the use of consistent assumptions.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

French Nuclear Testing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of what Pacific forums the UK Government are a member; and if he will list for each one the position they have taken on French nuclear tests in the Pacific and specify Her Majesty's Government's position on that decision. [34151]

Mr. David Davis: The United Kingdom is a member of the South Pacific commission, which has not taken a position on the resumption of French nuclear testing.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what dependent territories the United Kingdom has in the Pacific; how far these are from Muroroa; what views have been expressed by the Governments on French nuclear testing; and how these views will be transmitted to the French Government. [34154]

Mr. Davis: Pitcairn is the only UK dependent territory in the South Pacific. It is approximately 900 km from Mururoa. The island council has not expressed an opinion on the resumption of French nuclear testing.

Computer Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34553]

Mr. Hanley: To provide the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its agencies for the last five years would involve disproportionate cost. Details for each of the last three years, covering both computer hardware, h/w, and software, s/w, are as follows:

Supplier	*Total IT*	*Hardware*	*Software*
1992–93			
Easams	2,667,087	2,664,141	2,946
Wang UK	2,186,845	2,045,591	141,254
ICL	1,128,347	1,067,687	60,660
Secure Computer Systems	997,312	934,794	62,518
Olivetti	721,850	625,778	96,072
AT and T	459,057	314,311	144,746
Informix Software	372,641	0	372,641
Unitech	355,439	213,822	141,617
Ferranti	312,400	32,400	280,000
Lynwood	310,866	310,866	0
1993–94			
Easams	2,979,675	2,843,657	136,018
ICL	1,862,698	1,631,793	230,905
Wang UK	1,269,422	1,254,944	14,478
Lynwood Scientific Dev	1,095,640	1,095,640	0
A T and T	1,084,390	895,860	188,530
Informix	598,686	0	598,686
Uniplex	579,585	0	579,585
Secure Computer Systems	381,784	377,226	4,558
Computer Network Consultants	341,888	331,831	10,057
Unitech	249,265	95,877	153,388
1994–95			
Easams	2,764,947	2,752,962	11,985
ICL	2,041,195	1,653,598	387,597
A T and T	1,032,684	864,691	167,992
Lynwood	464,218	464,218	0

Supplier	Total IT	Hardware	Software
Unitech	388,480	328,704	59,776
IQ Software	385,500	0	385,500
Secure Computer Systems	341,162	341,162	0
Wang UK Ltd	292,308	292,308	0
Traderman	163,165	71,441	91,724
Uniflex Group	108,920	0	108,920

Sickness Absence

52. **Mr. Ian McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34594]

Mr. Hanley: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not at present have a comprehensive computerised system for recording sick leave. The diplomatic wing compiles this information manually and no statistical analysis is available. Work on computerising these records has begun. Once this project has been completed later this year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be able to answer this type of question.

Therefore the information requested by the hon. Member can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Genetically Modified Food (Labelling)

Mr. David Marshall: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make it compulsory to have special labels on genetically modified food products in Britain; and if he will make a statement. [33701]

Mrs. Browning: The draft EC regulation on novel foods and novel food ingredients currently under discussion in Brussels will introduce compulsory labelling to indicate the presence in a food, including genetically modified foods, of ethically sensitive material, material which may have health implications for certain sections of the population and the presence within the food of a genetically modified organism, as defined by directive 90/220/EEC, if it has not been modified solely for agronomic reasons.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33445]

Mr. Boswell: Centralised records are not kept of the numbers of individual contractors between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and consultants, and I am unable to give a definitive reply at this time. However, the information is being collated, and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33465]

Mr. Boswell: Since 1980 the core Department has spent £159,000 on consultants in connection with privatisation programmes. In addition, studies into the privatisation of the Covent Garden Market authority were undertaken by consultants at a total cost of approximately £41,000.

During the three years since its establishment as a MAFF agency a total of £142,000 has been spent by ADAS on consultancy projects in connection with privatisation.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years: and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33863]

Mr. Boswell *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* Expenditure on computer consultancy over the past five years is:

£ million

Year	Expenditure
1990–91	4.4
1991–92	4.0
1992–93	5.2
1993–94	8.3
1994–95	5.4

The estimated expenditure in 1995–96 is around £6 million. Expenditure in the following four years is expected to be in the range of £3.5 million annually, depending upon the requirements, assessment of priorities and PES settlements.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which firms won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years: and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33894]

Mr. Boswell *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The details requested are as follows:

Consultants	Number of contracts
ACT Logsys	1
ACT Business Systems	1
Admiral	3
AIMS Systems	1
Aimtech Europe	1
Ampersand	5
AMP Systems	1
AMTEC	4
Applied Information Systems	1
Arena	1
ASK Group	2
Aslib Consultancy	1
Asterisk Systems	6
Benson Networks	1
BIS	1
Brandt Computers	1
Bristol University	1
Brook Systems	1

Consultants	Number of contracts
Keith Butterfield Associates	1
Cambridge Ergonomics	1
CAPITA	1
CCT	6
Chris Cole Associates	1
Coopers and Lybrand	1
Corporate Computers	1
Cray Systems	1
CSS Trident	2
Digital Equipment Corporation	1
D M Shaw Associates	3
DPP International	1
Duhig Berry	1
Electronic Facilities Design	3
Eosys	1
Ernst and Young	2
Exclusive Software	2
Exeter University	1
FI Group	4
Forvus Ltd	1
Foxware	3
Gateway Systems	1
Grafton	1
R. T. Grandy Associates	1
Harwell Computers	1
Hayes-Davies	1
Hay Management	1
Haynes Associates	1
Hoskyns	3
Hunterskill	1
IBM	1
Independent Training Solutions	1
Inference Ltd	1
Infocus	1
Infologistix	1
Ingres	1
Insight Consultancy	1
ISM Consultants	1
Intergraph	1
Intersect	1
International Software	1
John Guest Ltd.	1
Kermon Associates	2
LBMS	3
Logica	2
Mansell Associates	1
Megaware Consultants	1
MSB International	1
Metron	1
Midsummer Computing	1
MMT Ltd.	6
Mouncey and Partners	10
MSB International	2
MSG Business Systems	1
Neville Clarke	1
OFICE	1
Oracle	6
PA Consulting	12
PACTUM Ltd.	1
Perspective	1
Premier Computing	1
Price Waterhouse	3
Prime Computer Systems	1
Projects Group	1
Quanta Learning Systems	3
Reading University	1
Reed Personnel	1
Ricardo Ltd.	1
SAC Ltd.	1
Sapphire Ltd.	1
SEMA Group	19
Sequent Computer Systems	2
Sequelogic	1
Sherwoods Ltd.	9
Shreeveport Ltd.	1
Siemens Nixdorf	4
Software Innovations	1
Software Support	1
Soft Toolrack	1
South-West Health Authority	1
Softbridge Support Services	1
Softlab	1
Span Group	3
STATUS IQ	2
Syntech	2
Surrey Training and Enterprise Council	1
Touche Ross	11
TMS Computer Authors	1
Triad Ltd.	15
Unidata	1
Zergo Ltd.	1

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33870]

Mr. Boswell *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* During the past year, the following consultants have been employed by my Department at an agreed daily rate of £1,000 or more:

Charterhouse Bank

Oxford Communications Group

Price Waterhouse

Mrs. J. Olsen

KPMG Peat Marwick

Ernst and Young

Waste Paper Sludge (Thieveley Pike)

Mr. Pike: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what representations he has received regarding the problems caused by the spreading of waste paper sludge at Thieveley Pike, Cliviger, Burnley. [33614]

Mr. Boswell: We have received two letters on this subject and will reply to those parts of the letters which relate to MAFF's interests as soon as we have investigated the matters raised.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34584]

Mr. Boswell: Four applications to an industrial tribunal on the grounds of unfair dismissal have been brought against this Department within the last 12 months. Two are pending. Two were withdrawn by the applicants, one of which was on terms providing £1,000 compensation as part of an agreed settlement. No external legal fees have been paid.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what will be the involvement of the Deputy Prime Minister in the work of his Department. [34036]

Mr. Douglas Hogg *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger) by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 11 July 1995, *Official Report*, columns *496–97*.

Allowances

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowances. [32214]

Mr. Jack: The amount spent by the Department during each of the last two years on public transport and car mileage allowance, at prices and rates current in the relevant year, is as follows:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
(i) Public transport	2,285,933	2,148,659
(ii) Car mileage allowance	3,770,826	3,714,600

Expenditure on bicycle allowance is not recorded separately but is contained in the public transport figures, which also include some other associated travel costs.

The figures for 1993–94 include the Pesticides Safety and Veterinary Medicines Directorates.

Responsibility for such matters within ADAS, the Central Science Laboratory, the Central Veterinary Laboratory and the Pesticides Safety and the Veterinary Medicines Directorates has been delegated to the agency chief executives and I have asked them to reply to you direct.

Letter from Professor P. I. Stanley to Mrs. Anne Campbell, dated 14 July 1995:

The amount of travel claims at constant prices in 1993/94 and 1994/95

The Central Science Laboratory (CSL) was launched as an executive agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) on 1 April 1992 and following the merger with 2 further laboratories was relaunched on 1 April 1994. Expenditure on travel claims are as follows:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
Public Transport	99,051.96	203,385.79
Car Mileage Allowance	66,749.71	177,904.37
Bicycle Allowance	Nil	Nil

Letter from T. W. A. Little to Mrs Anne Campbell, dated 14 July 1995:

The Minister has asked me to reply to your question concerning the amount of travel claims at the Central Veterinary Laboratory.

We do not distinguish between bicycle and car mileage and neither do we analyses overseas travel by mode of transport. Against this background the expenditure based on constant 1993/94 prices was as follows:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
Public transport (UK)	34,482	[1]33,673
Mileage (UK)	17,839	[1]15,176

[1] 2.75 per cent. deflator used on 1994–1995 costs.

Letter from G. K. Bruce to Mrs. Anne Campbell, dated 14 July 1995:

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has asked me to reply, in respect of the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD), to your Question about travel claims.

The amounts of travel claims at actual prices in 1993/94 and 1994/95 were as follows:

£

	1993/94	*1994/95*
Public transport (UK and foreign travel)	77,909	81,921
Car mileage allowance	9,039	12,923
Bicycle allowance	0	0

Please note that the figures for 1993/94 are also included in the reply from the Minister. They are given here to enable a comparison to be made between the two years.

Letter from Dr. J. M. Rutter to Mrs. Anne Campbell MP, dated 3 July 1995:

PQ1 28 JUNE 1995

The Minister of State has asked me to reply to your question about travel costs incurred by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, as this is an operational matter for which I am responsible.

The information you requested (at 1994–95 prices) is as follows:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
Public transport	12,456	14,434
Car mileage allowance	6,842	9,831
Bicycle allowance	Nil	Nil

Letter from Dr. J. M. Walsh to Mrs. Anne Campbell, dated 14 July 1995:

Recently you tabled a question in the House of Commons (PQ Number 1584) asking the Minister of Agriculture for details of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in (a) 1993/94 and (b) 1994/95, broken down by 1) public transport, 2) car mileage allowance and 3) bicycle allowance.

I understand that he will be writing to you with details of the core part of the Ministry, but has asked the Chief Executive's to reply on behalf of their agencies. ADAS was formed as an Executive Agency of MAFF and the Welsh Office in April 1992.

The details requested in constant 1994/95 prices are as follows:

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
Car Mileage Allowances	3,626,346	3,458,338
Public Transport Claims	217,818	213,292
Bicycle Allowances	0	0

Tobacco (Intervention Stock)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what is the current tonnage and value of tobacco held in intervention by the European Commission. [34640]

Mr. Baldry: From the 1993 harvest, the facility to take tobacco into intervention was removed and it can be re-introduced only in exceptional circumstances. Details of the remaining volume of intervention stocks for tobacco for harvests prior to 1993, updated on a monthly basis, are available in the Library of the House. There is no information readily available on the value of those stocks, although the value of the different consignments at the time of being taken into intervention, was taken into account in reimbursing member states for storage costs and stock depreciation.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 17 July 1995

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Crown Court Trials (Waiting Times)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will provide a breakdown by Crown court circuit of the average length of time between an accused person being remanded in custody for trial at Crown court and the date on which the trial starts. [34826]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from Michael Huebner to Mr. Stephen Byers, dated 17 July 1995:

WAITING TIME FOR CROWN COURT TRIALS

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about the average length of time between an accused person being remanded in custody for trial and the date on which the trial starts in the Crown Court.

I am able to provide you with the following information for each Circuit and overall for England and Wales. These figures cover the 12 month period up to 31 March 1995:

Midland and Oxford Circuit: 12.3 weeks

North Eastern Circuit: 15.9 weeks

Northern Circuit: 14.5 weeks

Southern Eastern Circuit (London): 13.2 weeks

Southern Eastern Circuit (Provinces) 14.2 weeks

Wales and Chester Circuit: 8.8 weeks

Western Circuit: 12.2 weeks

England and Wales: 13.5 weeks

Interdepartmental Working Group on Marriage

Mr. Brandreth: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will give details of the terms of reference and membership of the interdepartmental working group on marriage, which the Government announced in their White Paper "Looking to the Future: Mediation and the Ground for Divorce". [35707]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The terms of reference for the interdepartmental working group on marriage, which is to be chaired by the Lord Chancellor's Department, are as follows.

The interdepartmental working party on marriage will seek to identify:

the needs of couples in relation to preparing for marriage and for guidance and support during marriage;

the range of services currently available in this area, the extent to which their existence is known and how this knowledge might be increased; and

how existing resources might best be used to meet the needs of couples who are considering marriage or whose marriage is in difficulty.

The following Departments will be represented on the group: the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Home Office, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Social Security, the Northern Ireland Office, the Department of Education and Employment, the Department of Health and the Welsh Office.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33562]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Information has not been held centrally for the full period in question, and information prior to 1992–93 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. On the best information currently available details of external consultancy contracts for the years from 1992–93 are as follows:

Year	*Number of contracts*	*Value £000's*
1992–93	74	3,455
1993–94	72	1,224
1994–95	84	1,640

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33464]

Mr. Taylor: No Department for which the Lord Chancellor is responsible has incurred any consultancy costs in connection with privatisation programmes since 1980.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33444]

Mr. Taylor: This information has not been held centrally, and figures for the years before 1992–93 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. On the best information currently available, the five consultancy firms which have won the most contracts for the years from 1992–93 are:

Consultants	*Number of contracts*	*Value £000s*
1. Myriad Computer Services	9	190
2. Peat Marwick	7	246
3. TBV Consultants	7	122
4. Price Waterhouse	6	353
5. WS Atkins	5	164

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his

Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries, *(i)* Pannell Kerr Foster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33912]

Mr. Taylor: This information has not been held centrally. On the best information currently available, the details for the Lord Chancellor's Department are as follows:

Consultants	*Number of contracts*	*Amount £000's*
Coopers and Lybrand	2	79
Peat Marwick	7	246
Ernst and Young	1	11
Arthur Andersen	nil	nil
Price Waterhouse	6	276
Grant Thornton	nil	nil
Stoy Haywood	nil	nil
Robson Rhodes	1	3
Pannell Kerr Foster	nil	nil

The Lord Chancellor is now responsible for four agencies: the Court Service, Her Majesty's Land Registry, the Public Record Office and the Public Trust Office. Information relating to the Court Service is included in the figures above, as it became an agency only after the period in question; and information relating to the Public Trust Office is included up to the time it acquired agency status in July 1994. In respect of the Land Registry, the Public Record Office, and the Public Trust Office from July 1994, the question concerns operational matters on which the chief executives are best placed to provide answers. I have accordingly asked them to reply direct.

Letter from David Thomas to Mr. Austin Mitchell dated 17 July 1995:

CONSULTANCY COMPANIES

In the absence of the Chief Executive, who is on leave, I have been asked by the Lord Chancellor's Parliamentary Secretary to reply to your question on contracts let to specified companies for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95.

The following contracts were let:

	Number of contracts	*Total sum £*
1993–94		
Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries	—	—
Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries	—	—
Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries	1	113,749
Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries	—	—
Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries	1	19,960
Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries	—	—
Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries	1	13,920
Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries	—	—
Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries	—	—
1994–95		
Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries	—	—
Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries	—	—
Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries	1	229,809
Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries	—	—
Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries	—	—
Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries	—	—
Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries	1	60,395
Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries	—	—
Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries	—	—

Letter from Stella Hutcheson to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 10 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Lord Chancellor's Department has asked me to reply to you as part of the Lord Chancellor's Department's response to your Parliamentary Question, listed on 7 July 1995, regarding the cost of contracts awarded to various firms and their subsidiaries in 1993–94 and 1994–95.

In 1994–95 Price Waterhouse were awarded a contract to provide management advice at a cost of £65,742.55.

Letter from John Manthorpe to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 17 July 1995:

CONTRACTS FOR PRIVATISATION, MARKET TESTING, MANAGEMENT ADVICE, ACCOUNTING, AUDIT CONSULTANCY AND OTHER SERVICES 1993/94 AND 1994/95.

I have been asked by the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department to reply to your recent question about the number and total sum of contracts let out to a list of 9 consultancy companies in the years 1993/94 and 1994/95.

One contract was let to Coopers Lybrand, in 1993/94, for a sum of £12,601.87.

I do hope that this answers the points raised with the Parliamentary Secretary, but please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33412]

Mr. John M. Taylor: For the Department and agencies for which the Lord Chancellor is responsible, staff declaring any company shareholdings would have been dealt with in accordance with the established guidance. Records of the number of cases are not held centrally. Neither the Department nor its agencies have any staff who have declared any company shareholdings, or staff who have been advised to dispose of shareholdings, during the last five years.

Crown Court Trials (Delays)

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what steps can be taken against lawyers who cause delays in Crown court proceedings by failing to provide timely and accurate information. [33842]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from Michael Huebner to Mr. Peter Thurnham, dated 17 July 1995:

CROWN COURTS TRIALS

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about the steps being taken to reduce the time taken to bring cases to trial in the Crown Courts.

Unfortunately, there will always be an element of delay in any court proceedings. For example, when fixing a date for trial account often needs to be taken of the availability of witnesses to attend court. However, the Court Service carefully monitors the speed with which cases move through the system and takes active measures to reduce avoidable delays.

We have recently introduced a system of early plea and directions hearings in the Crown Courts. This scheme which is being phased into all Crown Courts this year will identify, at an early stage, cases in which defendants intend to plead guilty, and where a plea of not guilty is entered, will enable the judge to give directions about the preparations for trial. The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 introduced sentence discounts for defendants who enter early guilty pleas, which will reinforce the beneficial effects of the early plea and directions system.

In addition to these measures we have progressively increased the number of sitting days in the Crown Court since the beginning of 1995. Over the same period there has also been a reduction in the number of outstanding cases by 13%.

We are also introducing new systems to collect detailed information on the causes of delay and will be considering, in conjunction with the judiciary and the Crown Prosecution Service, what more can be done to reduce them.

Finally, I am pleased to report that twenty-nine new crown court rooms are due to open by the end of 1996.

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what steps can be taken against lawyers who cause delays in Crown court proceedings by failing to provide timely and accurate information. [33842]

Mr. Taylor: Judges have powers to make wasted costs orders against lawyers. They may also make observations for the attention of the paying authority regarding the work for which the lawyer is due to be paid fees from legal aid.

Muslim Marriages

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will ask the Law Commission to examine the law relating to the solemnisation of Muslim marriages, with particular reference to the need for solemnisation in a mosque to be followed by a registry office ceremony. [34324]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: I have been asked to reply.

We see no need to invite the Law Commission to undertake such an examination. A marriage in a mosque does not by law have to be followed by a register office ceremony. The law already provides for the solemnisation of a marriage in any building registered for the purpose under section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949, and there are over 100 mosques in England and Wales registered for marriages. The trustees or governing body of a building registered for marriages may also appoint, and certify to the Registrar General, an authorised person to register marriages at the building, so that a marriage registrar need not attend at the ceremony. The 1949 Act requires the use of words of declaration and contract, prescribed in the Act, by the parties to a civil marriage and in marriage in all faiths and religions—except, for ecclesiological or historical reasons, in the Anglican, Jewish and Quaker marriage rites.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

British Citizens (Repatriation from Australia)

Sir Peter Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have been repatriated at United Kingdom public expense from Australia in 1995. [34299]

Mr. Hanley: None.

Mr. Viktor Kubeykin

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations were made by *The Sunday Times* to Ministers or officials about issuing a visa to Mr. Viktor Kubeykin, a retired KGB officer, to visit the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [34546]

Mr. Hanley: I have asked the migration and visa correspondence unit to obtain the information requested and to let the hon. Member have a substantive reply as soon as possible.

Indonesia

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he intends to make the Government of Indonesia about the rejection of the plea for presidential clemency of Sergeant-Major Bungkus who is expected to be executed; and if he will raise the issue of the treatment of Sergeant-Major Bungkus at the forthcoming consultative group for Indonesia meeting. [34712]

Mr. Hanley: We have received reports about the rejection of Mr. Bungkus's plea for clemency. Our embassy in Jakarta is seeking clarification from the Indonesian Government.

Singapore

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made in the last three years of the level of judicial independence in Singapore. [34417]

Mr. Hanley: None. The independence of the Singapore judiciary is a matter for the Singapore Government.

Africa (Peacekeeping)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the joint British-Nigerian proposals to the United Nations on peacekeeping in Africa. [34361]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: A copy of the Anglo-Nigerian paper on African peacekeeping has been placed in the Library of the House.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34702]

Mr. Hanley: Diplomatic staff produced over 6,000 service reports for British firms in the year ended 31 March 1995. Chargeable services, targeted specifically at small to medium-sized companies, are subject to an independent survey of customer satisfaction. The most recent published information about the Department's commercial work abroad is contained in the Foreign and Commonwealth departmental report—available in the House Library, Cm 2802. This includes details of satisfaction rates.

Visas (Moscow)

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will investigate the circumstances in which Mr. Patrick Roche and Mr. Barnie Penrose obtained visas for people in Moscow; what types of visas were obtained and for whom; which post issued them; and to what extent Ministers or the permanent secretary were involved. [34545]

Mr. Hanley: Our embassy in Moscow is now aware of any visa applications which have been sponsored by either Mr. Roche or Mr. Penrose.

Bosnia

Mr. John Townend: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is the total gross cost and net cost of the Bosnian operation both in respect of aid and military cost to 31 March. [34492]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, to the hon. Member for Mid-Kent (Mr. Rowe) on 5 July, *Official Report*, columns *262–63*.

Diplomats (Parking Fines)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish figures recording the number of unpaid parking fines incurred by diplomatic missions in London during 1994. [34431]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State on 2 May, *Official Report*, column *149*.

Lockerbie

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library the statements issued by the British high commission in Australia about the film "The Maltese Double Cross". [34775]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: A copy has been placed in the Library.

Iraq

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what information the United Nations special commission on Iraq has provided to Her Majesty's Government about equipment sent from the United Kingdom to Iraq which could be used for the manufacture of chemical warfare agents; [35144]

(2) when the list of suppliers of equipment and chemicals exported to Iraq which were used in her chemical warfare programme will be made public *(a)* by UNSCOM or *(b)* by Her Majesty's Government; [35142]

(3) when the information UNSCOM has collected about chemical warfare production in Iraq will be published in full; [35141]

(4) what information Her Majesty's Government has received from UNSCOM about chemical exports to Iraq from the United Kingdom and other countries. [35143]

Mr. David Davis: UNSCOM inspectors have investigated a wide range of sites in Iraq at which British equipment and products have been found. UNSCOM policy is to give the names of supplier companies in confidence to the member states in which the companies are located. UNSCOM does not make this information public. Nor is it our practice to publish the names of such companies. However, any evidence of wrongdoing is investigated and, if appropriate, will be a matter for the courts.

UNSCOM regularly publishes reports on its work, the latest of which—S/1995/284 and S/1995/494—have been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has about the progress made by the international commission of inquiry into the deaths at the Kibeho camp in Rwanda; and if he will make a statement. [34666]

Mr. Hanley: The report of the independent international commission of inquiry into the deaths at Kibeho was published on 18 May. Copies have been placed in the Libraries in the House. We have welcomed the inquiry and called on all concerned to implement its recommendations fully.

ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Finance

Mr. Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list by region the total amount of *(a)* useable and *(b)* set-aside capital receipts held by each local authority in England at 31 March. [33473]

Sir Paul Beresford *[pursuant to his reply, 12 July 1995, c. 578]:* Four local authorities in the south-east were omitted from the list provided. I am therefore placing a revised list of local authorities in the Library to the House.

This also affects the totals for the south-east region which should have read "Usable Receipts £1,206 million and PCL set aside £2,912 million."

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the level of capital receipts held by each local authority for the latest year available and the total for each region and nationally. [34645]

Sir Paul Beresford: A list by region of the amounts of accumulated usable capital receipts and the amounts set aside as provision for credit liabilities for each English local authority at 31 March 1994 has been placed in the Library of the House.

The regional totals for these amounts are:

Amounts held as at 31 March 1994 (£ million)

Region	*Usable receipts*	*PLC set aside*
South East	1,206	2,912
South West	162	629
East Anglia	93	323
West Midlands	117	437
East Midlands	123	508
North West	142	489
Yorkshire and Humberside	79	460
Northern	65	225
Miscellaneous authorities (all regions)	74	58
Total	2,061	6,041

The provision for credit liabilities includes amounts set aside from both capital receipts and revenue. Separate figures are not available.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33458]

Sir Paul Beresford: The information requested is not held centrally by my Department and is obtainable only at disproportionate cost.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what assessment he has made of the performance of the Energy Saving Trust in meeting the reductions in emissions set out in the United Kingdom climate change strategy. [33998]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: The Government are confident of meeting their commitments under the climate change convention. The trust estimates that the programme of activities already established and financed will save at least 0.3 million tonnes of carbon in 2000. Further schemes will make additional contributions, but they are not yet established.

Construction Industry Board

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the membership of the Construction Industry Board; on what criteria members were appointed; and what is their salary. [34063]

Mr. Clappison: The board's membership is provided by the Construction Industry Council, the Construction Industry Employers Council, the Constructors Liaison Group, and the Government, each of whom may appoint four members; and the Construction Clients Forum which is entitled to appoint six members. The Secretary of State for the Environment is president of the board and Sir Michael Latham is chairman.

Appointment of members is at the discretion of the nominating organisations, but they are expected to be senior representatives of their organisations.

The Confederation of British Industry is a representative body and members are not paid salaries.

Algae Blooms

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many rivers, canals and lakes have been deemed a safety hazard to public health as a result of algae blooms in each of the last five years. [34627]

Mr. Clappison: This information is not held centrally.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34592]

Sir Paul Beresford *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* In the last 12 months, there were no redundancies in the core of my Department, nor in the Health and Safety Executive. In the Property Services Agency, there were 895 redundancies, of which 466 were voluntary. The total sum spent on these redundancies was £38,697,000.

Town Centre Managers

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the support he intends to give to town centre managers. [33370]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: Town centre management is a local activity, best carried out by local partnerships. I have, however, strongly supported town centre improvement and management through planning policy guidance note 6; through a good practice guide—"Vital and Viable Town Centres: Meeting the Challenge"; and through help for the Association of Town Centre Management in a number of its projects.

Department of Employment Staff

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many staff employed in the former Department of Employment as a result of that Department's abolition *(a)* will be made redundant *(b)* will take early retirement *(c)* will be employed on a temporary contract instead of a permanent contract and

(d) will be employed on a part-time basis instead of a full-time basis; and if he will make a statement. [34658]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Health and Safety Executive and the health and safety policy and liaison section of the Employment Department transferred to the Department of the Environment on 5 July 1995.

This has not had any impact on the number of employees employed or their conditions of service.

Defective Housing

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will classify the privately owned Calder Homes houses at Angus close, Killingworth, North Tyneside as properties which are defective under section 528(1) in part XVI of the Housing Act 1985. [34807]

Mr. Clappison: My Department has no evidence that this would be justified.

Ozone

Ms Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what advice he has received from the Norwegian Meteorological Office as to the estimate produced by the photochemical model for Europe with regard to the likely effects upon levels of ozone in the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom policy for reducing oxides of nitrogen. [35086]

Mr. Clappison: As part of the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme's work programme within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Transboundary Air Pollution—UNECE-LRTAP—a photochemical model has been developed and is used as an aid policy dvelopment. Preliminary results show that ozone in the UK is indeed a transboundary problem and that the UK receives significant amounts of ozone from other European countries. As the UK reduces emissions of nitrogen oxides, levels of ozone may rise and then decline as further reductions in nitrogen oxide emissions are made. Because of the complesities associated with the formation of ground level ozone in Europe, the EMEP results will be developed and considered more fully within the UNECE with the aim of developing a European-wide strategy for ozone reduction.

Local Government Commission

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what were the costs of running the Local Government Commission; what was the amount spent each year by the commission on research and consultancy; and if he will list the areas covered and the companies engaged for each year since 1990. [35095]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Local Government Commission was established on 1 July 1992. Its expenditure to date is as follows:

£ million

Year	*Total expenditure*	*Expenditure on research and consultancy*
1992–93	2.056	0.532
1993–94	5.146	1.281
1994–95	7.817	1.004

The present budget for 1995–96 is £2,508 million; budget allocations, including those of consultancies are still being considered. The commission has engaged MORI, Ernst and Young, NOP Research Group Ltd., the Audit Commission, Succession Planning Associates, the London Research Centre and, for the current year only, Coopers and Lybrand on consultancies covering opinion research, staffing issues and financial appraisal together with other related matters.

TRANSPORT

Derailments

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the number of derailments involving *(a)* passenger trains and *(b)* freight trains occurring in each year since 1990 to date. [34901]

Mr. Watts: The Health and Safety Executive's railway inspectorate maintains records of accidents and incidents, details of which are contained in the annual report on railway safety. Copies are placed in the House of Commons Library.

The table shows the number of derailments for passenger and freight trains.

Figures for 1994–95 are expected to be published this December.

Derailments 1990 to 1993–94

	1990	*1991*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*Total*
Passenger trains	26	3	23	30	29	111
Freight trains	157	43	121	175	84	580
Total	183	46	144	205	113	691

The figures for 1991 cover the period 1 January 1991 to 31 March 1991 only.

Rail Privatisation

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the nationality of those foreign companies, organisations or individuals which have completed pre-qualification for tendering for a private rail franchise. [34910]

Mr. Watts: No.

Transport Policy (Safety)

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to include transport safety in the list of main questions in his consultation document "Transport: The Way Ahead"; and what factors underlay its initial exclusion. [34895]

Sir George Young: The broad theme of "Transport: The Way Ahead" is the balance in transport policy between promotion of economic growth, protection of the environment and support for personal choice. Transport safety can affect this balance: some of the issues are touched upon in the paper—see paragraphs 1.25, 2.25, 5.22 and 5.33.

I would welcome any contributions which explored these issues further.

Road Congestion (Greater London)

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is his Department's estimate of the annual cost to business of road congestion within Greater London. [34898]

Mr. Norris: No single figure can be quoted because there is no generally accepted norm against which any measure of congestion can be compared.

Parliamentary Questions

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many parliamentary questions his Department has refused to answer for reasons of commercial confidentiality in each year since 1990 to date. [34902]

Mr. Norris: This is a matter of public record.

Cyclists (Accidents)

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the number of road traffic accidents involving cyclists indicating the number of fatalities, and the number of serious injuries in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* the United Kingdom for each year since 1990 to date. [34906]

Mr. Norris: The information available is shown in the following table.

Accidents involving pedal cyclists: Greater London 1990–94

Accidents

Severity	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Fatal	19	18	20	19	16
Serious	650	652	567	515	511
Slight	3,940	3,699	3,740	3,731	3,931
All severities	4,609	4,369	4,327	4,265	4,458

Pedal cycle fatalities and serious casualties: Greater London 1990–94

Casualties

Severity	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Fatal	19	17	18	18	15
Serious	627	629	545	493	488
KSI[1]	646	646	563	511	503

[1] Killed or seriously injured.

Accidents involving pedal cyclists: Great Britain 1990–94

Accidents

Severity	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Fatal	267	247	212	194	184
Serious	4,486	4,076	3,905	3,743	3,966
Slight	21,971	20,719	20,845	20,363	20,915
All severities	26,724	25,042	24,962	24,300	25,065

Pedal cycle fatalities and serious casualties: Great Britain 1990–94

Casualties

Severity	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Fatal	256	242	204	186	172
Serious	4,344	3,946	3,787	3,610	3,828
KSI[1]	4,600	4,188	3,991	3,796	4,000

[1] Killed or seriously injured.

Schoolchildren (Defective Transport)

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list by region the number of public service vehicles and minibuses carrying schoolchildren which have been found to be defective after random inspection in the last two years for which figures are available. [34795]

Mr. Norris: This data could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34622]

Mr. Norris *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* During the period 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995, there were 467 redundancies in the Department of Transport, all of which were voluntary. The early departure costs met by the Department amounted to £4,806,427.

Computer Equipment Supplies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34563]

Mr. Norris *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The top 10 suppliers of computer systems and equipment—hardware, pre-installed software and network products—in the financial years 1993–94 and 1994–95 obtained for the Department and its agencies were as follows:

Value of orders placed 1993–94

Company	*£000*
1. Dell	1,845
2. ICL	1,000
3. Talkdata	300
4. P and P	125
5. Technology PLC	120
6. ACT	95
7. Holdene	80
8. TBC	78
9. APS	65
10. Equanet	50

Value of orders placed 1994–95

Company	*£000*
1. Dell	3,630
2. ICL	2,100
3. Talkdata	463
4. APS	142
5. A K Marketing	99
6. Equanet	93
7. Phoenix	63
8. EDS	46
9. Rapid Recall	45
10. Advantage	43

Figures for earlier years, and further desegregation of types of computer spend, can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Red Route Roads

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will provide figures on the number of road traffic accidents occurring on roads classified as red routes and the number of accidents that occurred on the same routes prior to their achieving red route status. [34900]

Mr. Norris: The traffic director for London will be monitoring the performance of the red route network, including road safety, as the measures are introduced progressively over the next few years. He will be publishing summary extracts from the data in his annual reports as it becomes available.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34621]

Mr. Norris *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* Provisional data on the number of days lost in 1994 as a result of sickness is set out in the table. Information about the cost of the absences could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Days lost	*Percentage of working days*
Central Transport Group, Transport Road Research, Laboratory, Highways Agency, Marine Safety Agency, Coastguard Agency.	45,7723.07	
Driving Standards Agency	23,757	6.2
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	46,189	5.42
Vehicle Certification Agency	363	2.12
Vehicle Inspectorate	12,123	3.64

White Hart Roundabout, Northolt

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 12 July, *Official Report*, column *574*, what is the completion dates for the phased traffic lights at the White Hart roundabout, Northolt, at the time when money was made available to the London borough of Ealing for their construction; and if he will make a statement. [34850]

Mr. Norris: Funding for this scheme was through the local transport capital settlement for minor works. Such funding does not identify particular schemes, and leaves it to the local authority to determine its work programmes and priorities.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indictors by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34692]

Mr. Watts: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the UK economy. The Government continue to help smaller companies by keeping inflation and interest rates low and by reducing legislative and administrative and taxation burdens. They also provide direct assistance where appropriate.

The second competitiveness White Paper announced in May 1995 outlines a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

The Department's aim of a more efficient, safe and environmentally friendly transport system, using the market to offer the widest possible choice of transport users, will assist businesses of all sizes.

My Department is, like others, systematically reviewing the regulations for which it is responsible to ensure that the unnecessary or over-burdensome regulation is cut back. When considering new regulations, we take particular account of the burden and cost those regulations impose on small business. We have recently completed a consultation on proposals to relax the regulation of signing for tourist destinations.

Belgrave Road, London SW1

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will remove Belgrave road, London, SW1 from the priority—red—route network. [34415]

Mr. Norris: No. I would contemplate this only if strategic traffic in the area could be accommodated satisfactorily by improvements to Vauxhall Bridge road. I understand that the City of Westminster has decided not to proceed with the proposal to widen Vauxhall Bridge road.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of changes to the levels of air pollution caused by heavy lorry and other traffic on Belgrave road, London SW1 if Belgrave road is designated as a red route. [34414]

Mr. Norris: This is a matter for the traffic director, who is under a statutory duty to monitor the effect of the operation of red route measures. He is modelling emissions across the whole network based on traffic data to be collated before and after the implementation of measures.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the impact on

listed buildings in proximity to Belgrave road, London SW1, by the designation of Belgrave road as a red route. [34416]

Mr. Norris: None. There is no reason to believe that the red route initiative will have any impact on listed buildings.

Midland Main Line Service

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the percentage change in passenger services represented by the minimum requirements for the future franchised-out midland main line service. [34521]

Mr. Watts: The introduction of a passenger service requirement will not, in itself, represent any change to the level of services actually operated. Following franchising, I expect services on the midland main line to continue to improve in accordance with passenger demand. This assessment was supported by Midland main line's management team in its statement of 16 May.

Mrs. Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has undertaken into the environmental impact of potential reduction in the midland main line passenger service. [34520]

Mr. Watts: None. No service reductions are planned.

Catalytic Converters

Mr. Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of *(a)* total motor vehicles and *(b)* petrol-driven vehicles in the United Kingdom are fitted with catalytic converters. [34343]

Mr. Norris: At the end of June 1995, there were 4.85 million petrol-engined passenger cars equipped with three-way catalytic converters. This was equivalent to 21.85 per cent. of the total passenger car fleet which numbered 22.2 million at the end of 1994. A limited number of petrol-engined vans are also now equipped with three-way catalytic converters.

Mr. Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is the earliest date that he expects all petrol-driven vehicles in the United Kingdom to be fitted with catalytic converters; and what plans he has to introduce further regulatory changes. [34344]

Mr. Norris: All new petrol-engined passenger cars since 1993 and all new petrol-engined light vans since October 1994 have had to be fitted with three-way catalytic converters. The penetration of such vehicles into the parc as a whole depends on the rate of replacement, which cannot be predicted with certainty. It is nevertheless expected that the great majority of petrol-engined vehicles on the road will be equipped with catalysts by the early years of the next century.

Subject to statutory consultation and parliamentary approval, tighter controls on emissions from all vehicles in-service are to be introduced on 25 September 1995 to be followed, from 1 January 1996, by a further tightening for cars with advanced emissions control systems, such as three-way catalytic converters. Stricter emissions limits for new passenger cars will be introduced on 1 January 1997 and EC discussions on even stricter limits for the year 2000 have already begun.

Bicycle Lanes, Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to increase the provision of bicycle lanes in Rotherham. [34405]

Mr. Norris: The extent to which additional provision needs to be made for cycling on the highway, including the number of cycle lanes, is a matter for individual local highway authorities to determine. We are encouraging all authorities to improve conditions for cycling, and we offer them a wide range of advice and guidance.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors led him to advise bidders for the CTRL in the competition overview document that the required alternative bids which include a station at Stratford should assume that authorisation for the station is obtained by him and not as a result of procedures under the Transport and Works Act 1992. [34276]

Mr. Watts: The aim in the competition overview document was to obtain from each tenderer a range of required alternative bids involving a Stratford station. In order to simplify comparison with the reference bid, which was not to include a Stratford station, tenderers were asked to assume, among several other things, that it was for the holder of the competition, the Secretary of State, and not for them, to see that authorisation for a station was forthcoming. No guidance was given on the method of authorisation. In fact, decisions about whether there should be a station at Stratford, and, in that event, how it should be authorised, remain to be taken.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors led to the choice of 2030 as the date up to which the Government would not provide any subsidy or financial assistance to any further new railway for international passenger services between London and the channel tunnel as set out in the draft development agreement for bidders for the CTRL. [34274]

Mr. Watts: In formulating this provision in the draft development agreement, we aimed to provide comfort for the private sector promoter for the likely period during which he would be repaying primary financing and refinancing.

London Underground (Crime)

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will call for a report from the managing director of London Underground about changes in the level of crime on the London Underground in the last year and its relationship to reductions in staffing at stations and on trains; what new measures are going to be taken to reduce crime; and if he will make a statement. [34307]

Mr. Norris: I have no plans to ask for such a report. The security of passengers and staff is a top priority for London Underground Ltd. and I am satisfied that LUL takes full account of any potential impacts on passenger security when making decisions on staffing levels. The small increase in overall underground crime last year was largely due to an increase in pickpocketing offences; the incidence of violent crime fell. I understand that London Underground and the British Transport police have

several initiatives planned for this year with the aim of reducing further crime on the underground.

Ministerial Visits

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the number of official ministerial visits undertaken by *(a)* London underground, *(b)* car, *(c)* rail and (d) air over the last 12 months, indicating the number of miles travelled and the total cost to his Department. [34897]

Sir George Young: Records are not kept of the modes of transport used on each official visit nor of the miles covered. Ministers may use a variety of modes when making an official visit or conducting ministerial business; travel by rail is generally preferred for official visits out of London. The cost of official ministerial visits undertaken by air and rail from 20 July 1994 to date was £80,897. In the same period, the cost of the Government car service for all ministerial business was £226,442 Separate records are not kept of costs of travel on London underground.

Buses, London

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will provide figures on bus usage within Greater London for each year since 1990 to date. [34914]

Mr. Norris: The available data is provided in the table.

Millions

Year	*Passenger journeys*
1990–91	1,178
1991–92	1,149
1992–93	1,129
1993–94	1,117

Data for 1994–95 will be available in October.

Rail Privatisation (Legal Advice)

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is the current cost to his Department per day of legal advice relating to rail privatisation. [34899]

Mr. Watts: The average cost of legal advice is approximately £23,000 per working day, including VAT.

Rails Signals (Danger)

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the number of incidents of rail signals passed at danger for each year since 1990 to date. [34907]

Mr. Watts: The table shows the number of signals passed at danger since 1990. Figures for 1994–95 are expected to be published this December. By far the majority of trains passing signals at danger stop within the protected zone of the signal overlap.

Signals passed at danger (SPADS) 1990–1993–94

Year	*Number*
1990	895
1991	206
1991–92	944
1992–93	871
1993–94	905
Total	3,821

The figures for 1991 cover the period 1 January 1991 to 31 March 1991 only.

Airport Noise

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will list the airlines that have received fines for breaching noise restriction regulations at *(a)* London Heathrow, *(b)* London Gatwick, *(c)* London Stansted, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Manchester, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Edinburgh and *(h)* Glasgow airports, indicating the number of fines imposed and the total amount of the fines per airline in the last 12 months; [34913]

(2) if he will list the number of fines imposed for breaches of noise restriction regulations at *(a)* London Heathrow, *(b)* London Gatwick, *(c)* London Stansted, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Manchester, *(f)* Edinburgh and *(g)* Glasgow airports, for each year since 1990 to date. [34912]

Mr. Norris: The Secretary of State may set requirements for limiting noise at airports designated for the purposes of section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982. The only airports so designated are Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

The noise limits are 110 PNdB (97dBA) by day (0701-2300) and 102 PNdB (92dBA) by night (2301-0700).

From 1 April 1993 at Heathrow and Stansted and from 1 May 1993 at Gatwick the airport companies have imposed financial penalties for breaches of the night noise limits and are progressively introducing financial penalties for the breaches of the daytime noise limits. Information on breaches of the noise limits and on the fines collected is provided by each of those airport companies to their respective airport consultative committees. A summary would be impractical because the information is provided on a different basis by each airport.

At other airports noise mitigation measures are the responsibility of the airport operator.

Night Flying Restrictions

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list for *(a)* London Heathrow, *(b)* London Gatwick, *(c)* London Stansted, *(d)* Birmingham, *(e)* Manchester, *(f)* Liverpool, *(g)* Edinburgh and *(h)* Glasgow airports, the number of incidents of VIP exemption from night-time air movement restrictions for each year since 1990 to date. [34911]

Mr. Norris: The Secretary of State has set restrictions on night flying at airports designated for the purposes of section 78 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982. These are Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

Since 24 October 1993, the start of the 1993 winter season, movements granted VIP exemption are as follows:

	VIP Exempt Flights
Heathrow	
Winter 1993–94	4
Summer 1994	13
Winter 1994–95	8
Summer (to 10–7–95)	4
Gatwick	
Winter 1993–94	0
Summer 1994	0
Winter 1994–95	0
Summer (to 10-27–95)	0
Stansted	
Winter 1993–94	0
Summer 1994	0
Winter 1994–95	0
Summer (to 10–7–95)	0

Information on the number of flights granted VIP exemptions before 24 October 1993 is not available.

At other airports restrictions on night flights may be introduced voluntarily by the operator or may be imposed by planning conditions.

Traffic Light Failures

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the number of incidents of traffic light failure in Greater London for each year since 1990 to date. [34909]

Mr. Norris: The numbers of all-out failures and confirmed faults affecting traffic signals in Greater London since 1990 are as follows:

	All outs	All confirmed faults (including all out failures)
1990	4,724	30,380
1991	4,380	27,749
1992	5,645	28,263
1993	5,721	31,609
1994	5,907	33,496
1995 (6 months)	2,569	16,434

There was a 21 per cent. increase in the number of signal installations on London's roads between January 1990 and June 1995.

Armed Forces Rail Travel Permits

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many British armed forces rail travel permits have currently been issued. [34896]

Mr. Watts: British Rail received 529,633 HM forces rail travel warrants from the Ministry of Defence in the year to 29 March 1995.

Ms Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if British armed forces rail travel permits will continue to be valid on all parts of the current British Rail network following rail privatisation. [34915]

Mr. Watts: The existing arrangements for rail travel warrants will continue for at least a further three years. Future arrangements will be a matter for negotiation between the Ministry of Defence and the train operators.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33430]

Mr. Norris: The five consultancy firms that have received most contracts over the last five year are *(a)* by number of contracts, W.S. Atkins Consultants Ltd.; the MVA Consultancy; Peat Marwick/PMG; PA Consulting Groups; Admiral; and *(b)* by monetary value, Hambros Bank Ltd.; Linklaters and Paines; the MVA Consultancy; Touche Ross and Co; McKenna and Co.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Departments and agencies for which he is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries *(d)* Arthur Anderson and its subsidiaries *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and *(i)* Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33909]

Mr. Norris: The information requested is set out in the accompanying tables.

Number and value of contracts let during 1993–94

	Coopers and Lybrand	Peat Marwick/ KPMG	Ernst and Young	Arthur Anderson	Price Waterhouse	Grant Thornton	Stoy Hayward	Robson Rhodes	Pannell Kerr Forster	Total number	Total value £
Privatisation	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	4	169,427
Market testing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Management advice	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	906,809
Accounting	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Audit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Consultancy	1	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	368,476
Other	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	27,000
Total	4	7	1		4					16	1,471,512

Number and value of contracts let during 1994–95

	Coopers and Lybrand	Peat Marwick KPMG	Ernst and Young	Arthur Anderson	Price Waterhouse	Grant Thornton	Stay Hayward	Robson Rhodes	Pannell Kerr Forster	Total number	Total Value £
Privatisation[1]	1	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	1	7	1,467,082
Market testing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Management advice	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	44,365
Accounting	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Audit	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	106,479
Consultancy	4	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	342,713
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Total	6	8	4	—	6	—	—	—	1	25	1,962,839

Vehicle Licensing

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list by year of registration since 1970, the number of heavy goods vehicles, passenger cars, and public transport vehicles currently licensed for road use. [34419]

Mr. Norris: The requested information is as follows:

Vehicles licensed at the end of 1994

Year first registered	Passenger cars[1]	Heavy goods vehicles[2]	Public transport vehicles[3]		
			8 seats or less	More than 8 seats	All
Pre 1970	144,700	500	150	940	1,090
1970	16,400	100	40	70	110
1971	19,900	200	30	130	150
1972	31,400	300	40	220	270
1973	36,800	400	50	700	750
1974	28,300	400	60	740	810
1975	29,200	500	80	1,030	1,100
1976	37,500	800	140	1,970	2,110
1977	56,300	1,000	250	2,430	2,670
1978	102,300	1,700	490	3,130	3,620
1979	180,400	3,400	620	3,950	4,570
1980	262,300	4,100	820	4,460	5,290
1981	406,000	4,300	1,180	3,730	4,910
1982	705,400	7,400	1,570	3,590	5,160
1983	1,045,100	12,300	1,230	3,670	4,900
1984	1,203,300	17,900	1,700	3,450	5,150
1985	1,407,300	24,200	1,610	3,210	4,820
1986	1,539,500	28,300	2,300	4,630	6,930
1987	1,721,300	36,200	2,670	4,570	7,240
1988	1,948,300	47,700	3,420	4,940	8,360
1989	2,068,900	52,500	2,760	4,970	7,730
1990	1,823,400	38,300	3,000	4,280	7,280
1991	1,454,100	26,100	2,210	3,030	5,230
1992	1,491,700	27,100	2,020	2,940	4,960
1993	1,680,500	31,700	1,800	3,610	5,410
1994	1,759,000	39,300	2,230	4,140	6,380
All	21,199,200	406,700	32,460	74,520	106,980

[1] All vehicles with car body types irrespective of taxation class.
[2] Taxation classes 1 to 9, including HGV, Trailer HGV, HGV Farmers, Trailer HGV Farmers, HGV Showman's, Trailer HGV Showman's, Restricted HGV, Restricted HGV Farmers, Restricted HGV Showman's.
[3] Taxation class 35, Hackney. From 1 July 1995 this tax class is replaced by class 34, Bus, for public transport vehicles with more than 8 seats.

Night Flying (Helicopters)

Mr. Tyler: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *122*, whether restrictions relating to night flights to and from *(a)* civil airports, *(b)* private airstrips, *(c)* military airfields and *(d)* heliports apply to police helicopters. [32395]

Mr. Norris: My right hon. Friend is responsible for certain noise mitigation measures, which include night flying restrictions, at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports only. At these airports, helicopters are not exempt from the night restrictions but specific police operations may be given a dispensation in appropriate circumstances. At all other airports, including heliports and private airstrips, the responsibility for noise mitigation lies with individual owners or operators. Restrictions on night flights may form part of planning approval. These arrangements apply to civilian aerodromes; at military airfields the responsibility lies with the Ministry of Defence.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making

information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as "www. open. gov. uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34686]

Mr. Norris: My Department is currently investigating the use of the Government "World Wide Web" server, particularly in relation to publication of the Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Agency and marine accident investigation branch. Recourse to interactive online publishing services such as the "World Wide Web" is one of the components of my Department's publishing strategy under the TIPS programme—transport information publishing services—which was advertised in the *Official Journal* in November of last year and for which procurement action is now under way.

Overseas Ministerial Visits

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list all overseas ministerial visits since 1 January 1993, the date of those visits, the names of the Ministers involved, the purpose of those visits, and the cost to his Department of those visits. [35276]

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials to public funds for each year since 1992. [32280]

Sir George Young: The destination, duration and purpose of ministerial overseas trips involving public funds for each year since 1992 are listed. Total travel and subsistence costs for Ministers and accompanying private secretaries were £54,080 in 1993–94; £84,013 in 1994–95 and £9,056 so far in 1995–96. Detailed records of visits and associated costs for 1992 are not available.

Information about the number and cost of accompanying officials is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Country visited	*Duration (days)*	*Purpose*
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT		
1993		
Belgium	1	Aviation conference
Belgium	1	Joint EC Transport and Environment Council
Belgium	2	Transport Council
Norway/Sweden	3	Fact-finding on congestion charging
Luxembourg	2	Transport Council
France	1	Paris Air Show
Luxembourg	1	Transport Council
USA	5	Meeting with US Transportation Secretary on aviation and fact-finding on highways
Belgium	2	Transport Council
1994		
Greece	3	Informal Transport Council
Germany	1	Trilateral, German/French/British meeting
Greece	3	Pan-European conference
Luxembourg	2	EC Transport Council
France	1	Channel Tunnel—official opening
France	3	European conference of Ministers of Transport
Denmark	2	European Civil Aviation Conference
Luxembourg	2	Transport Council
USA	1	HM Ambassador, Washington
Belgium	1	Transport Council
France	1	EPS Eurostar
USA	5	Fact-finding and export promotion
Belgium	1	Transport Council
France	1	Telematics conference
1995		
Holland	2½	Fact-finding on cycling
France	1	French and German Transport Ministers
Belgium	2	Transport Council
Switzerland	1½	Fact-finding on railways issues
Japan/Korea	8	Meeting with Transport Ministers; fact-finding, export promotion and agreement signing
Luxembourg	1	Transport Council
MINISTER FOR ROADS AND TRAFFIC		
1993		
Holland	2	European Conference of Transport Ministers
1994		
Italy	3	Fact-finding tour on motorway tolling
MINISTER FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT		
1993		
Germany	2	Meetings with German Transport Ministry; export promotion
France	1	French Transport Ministry
China	1	Chinese Ministry
France	1	French Transport Ministry
France	1	Railspeed conference
1994		
France	1	International station—Lille
France	1	Channel tunnel—official opening
MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND ROADS		
1994		
Germany	3½	German State Secretary and export promotion
France	1	Chambers of Commerce and Bridge Designers
France	1	Prometheus Ministers Day
Germany	2	German State Secretary and motorway tolling trial site
1995		
France	2	Informal Transport Council
Austria	2	European Conference of Transport Ministers
Germany	2	Centenary celebration of Kiel canal
MINISTER FOR AVIATION AND SHIPPING		
1993		
Belgium	1	Transport Council
Eire	1	Meeting with Irish Ministers
Belgium	1	Transport Council
France	1	Paris Air Show
France/Holland/ Germany	2	European airports
Holland/Belgium	1	Transport Council/aviation visit

Country visited	Duration (days)	Purpose
Hong Kong	4	Conference on aviation security; discussions on shipping
Belgium	2	Transport Council
1994		
France	1	Maritime safety; French Transport Minister
Israel	5	Export Trade Mission
Belgium	1	Maritime Safety and pollution
France	1	Port conference
Greece	2	Shipping exhibition
Denmark	1	Danish Shipping Minister
Japan	2	Kansai Airport Management; Transport, Trade and Industry Ministers; export promotion
Denmark	1	Ministers of Paris Memorandum of Understanding Group
France	1	P&O and Calais Chamber of Commerce
Belgium	1	Transport Council
1995		
France	1	Paris Air Show
MINISTER FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY		
1993		
USA	3	Fact-finding on parking enforcement
France	1	Paris Air Show
Brazil	5	Conference on alcoholism and drug dependence
Germany	3	Conference on traffic problems and solutions
Singapore/Hong Kong	9	Fact-finding on public transport operations and congestion charging systems
1994		
France	1	Channel Tunnel—official opening
Portugal	2	Road Haulage Association Conference
France	1	Paris; Ministry of Interior; The Paris Region Transport Administration

Rail Speed Restrictions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed restrictions are currently enforced on the railway line between Paddington and Plymouth; how long each speed restriction has been in force; how much longer each will be in force; what is the reason for each speed restriction; what steps are being taken to expedite repairs; and if he will make a statement. [34456]

Mr. Watts: Railtrack informs me that the total number of speed restrictions currently in force is 16. The restrictions have been in place between one and 15 months. The restricted speeds range from 20 to 60 mph and in each case the reason for the restriction is the condition of the track.

Railtrack has a programme of maintenance and renewal in place to restore the original line speeds. Repair work for each restricted track section is in the hands of local maintenance and track renewal units.

I will write to my hon. Friend with further more detailed information.

TREASURY

Department of Employment (Reorganisation)

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the transfer of responsibilities from the former Department of Employment to other Departments to be completed; how much he expects this reorganisation to cost; and what provision for these costs has been made within this year's public expenditure survey. [34667]

Mr. Waldegrave: The responsibilities have been transferred in accordance with the announcements made on 5 July. Consequential provisions will be made in a transfer of functions order in due course. The financial implications of the reorganisation will be discussed in the public expenditure survey.

Income Tax

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will update his answer to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, East (Mr. Brown) of 1 March 1994, *Official Report*, column *665*, on income tax. [33904]

Mr. Jack: The change in tax by quantile group for 1995–96 compared with a 1978–79 indexed regime is in the tables. In table A, the comparison is hypothetical since, if an indexed version of the 1978–79 tax regime had prevailed over the past 15 years, the income base would not have grown as it has.

Table A: Calculations using the 1995–96 income base

Quantile group of taxpayers under the 1978–79 indexed regime Per cent.	*Number of taxpayers Thousands*	*Reduction in tax £ million*	*Average reduction £*
Top 1	300	9,700	38,000
Top 5	1,300	13,500	10,500
Top 10	2,600	15,800	6,100
Bottom 50	12,900	4,500	350
All taxpayers	25,700	30,700	1,200

In contrast to these hypothetical figures, table B shows how the share of income tax actually paid by high income groups has risen since 1979, while the share of the income tax burden borne by low income tax payers has fallen.

Table B: Calculations using the income base for each year

Percentage

Quantile group of taxpayers	*Share of income tax in 1978–79*	*1995–96*
Top 1	11	16
Top 5	24	33
Top 10	35	44
Bottom 50	18	13
All taxpayers	100	100

National Savings Bank (Current Account Transfer)

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what is the process by which consultants will be selected (1) to conduct the proposed feasibility study into whether Post Office Counters should take over the National Savings bank's ordinary current account; and if he will make a statement; [33679]

(2) what legislation would be required to transfer the administration of National Savings bank's ordinary current account to the Post Office; and if he will make a statement; [33645]

(3) what is the time scale for the proposed feasibility study into the possibility of the National Savings bank transferring the administration of ordinary current accounts to Post Office Counters; when it is envisaged that this feasibility study will formally begin; and when he expects it to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* presented to ministers; [33646]

(4) how much money has been budgeted to cover the costs of the feasibility study into the possibility of national Savings bank transferring the administration of ordinary current accounts to Post Office Counters; [33647]

(5) what stage has been reached in the current feasibility study into the possibility of the national Savings bank transferring the administration of ordinary current accounts to Post Office Counters; and if he will make a statement. [33648]

(6) if he will make it his policy to establish a joint department of National Savings bank/Post Office Counters Ltd. team to supervise or assist external consultants examining the possible transfer of the ordinary current account from the National Savings bank to Post Office Counters Ltd. [33680]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The feasibility study is looking at whether Post Office Counters Ltd., POCL, should market its own savings account. That part covering the options involving the National Savings, NS, ordinary account will be led by a joint POCL/NS team. The feasibility study has commenced and is expected to be completed towards the end of the year. Consultants to assist in the study will be appointed by competitive tender. POCL and NS are presently finalising the detailed terms of reference for consultants.

The results will be considered by the boards of both organisations before recommendations are submitted to Ministers. The costs of the study will be met from within each organisation's current budget.

Greenbury Report

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to receive a copy of the Greenbury report; when he plans to respond to any taxation matters it raises; and if he will make a statement. [35294]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The Greenbury report was published today. In the light of its recommendations, the Government have decided to amend the tax treatment of executive share options so that any gain from the exercise of such options will be taxable as income rather than as capital gain. I propose to introduce legislation in the next Finance Bill to withdraw the income tax reliefs at present available to directors and employees participating in executive share option schemes which have been approved by the Inland Revenue. The withdrawal of the reliefs will take effect in relation to grants or exercises of options on or after today.

The tax reliefs for approved all-employee savings-related share option schemes will not be affected by this proposal.

Permanent Jobs (Creation)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many permanent jobs have been created in each year since 1981 net of losses and relocations. [34141]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* Information is available only for the net change in permanent employees and comparable infomration is available only from 1984. The information is given in the table:

Net change in permanent employees in Great Britain: Spring of early year (thousands)

	Net change
1984–85	158
1985–86	88
1986–87	52
1987–88	654
1988–89	628
1989–90	217
1990–91	-354
1991–92	-589
1992–93	-275
1993–94	-11

Note:
Information prior to 1992 has not yet been re-weighted to take account of OPCS revised population estimates and hence there is a discontinuity in the series between 1991 and 1992.
Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Northern Region (Average Earnings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the average gross weekly earnings of *(a)* women and *(b)* men in (i) each standard planning region and (ii) each country area in the northern region in each year since 1979 (1) at current prices and (2) at 1979 prices and the proportion of women and men earning less than 68 per cent. of the national average gross weekly wage in each standard planning region and each county area in the northern region in each year since 1979. [34180]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* Analyses of average earnings of full-time employees in the counties of the northern region are published in part E of the new earnings survey reports. Tables 110 and 113 contain average gross weekly earnings for men and women respectively. Copies of the reports are available in the Library.

The retail prices index is available in table 6.4 of the "Employment Gazette" and is now being published in full in the Central Statistical Office business monitor MM23.

Figures of the proportion of men and women earning less than 68 per cent. of the national average gross weekly wage in each standard planning region and each county area in the northern region cannot be produced for the years before 1986. To do so for the years since 1986 would incur disproportionate cost. Some relevant information can be found in tables 110 and 113, in the form of percentages with gross weekly earnings below three specified amounts.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the past 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34596]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* None.

European Union (Contributions)

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the gross and net contribution which the United Kingdom will make to the European Union in 1995; and what were the comparable gross and net figures in each of the previous 10 calendar years. [34423]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The Government's latest forecast of the United Kingdom's gross and net contribution to the European Community in 1995, with outturn figures for 1992 to 1994, are set out in the latest "Statement on the Community Budget", Cm 2824, published in April this year. Outturn figures for earlier years can be found in previous years' statements.

Fixed Exchange Rates

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what considerations underlay his policy statement of 10 July in respect of the non-requirement of a two-year participation in fixed exchange rates as a prelude to entry to a single currency, and if he will make a statement. [34420]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* It is not clear how the exchange rate criterion in the treaty on European Union will be interpreted. The treaty was negotiated at a time when the exchange rate mechanism operated under very different rules from those in force today. The interpretation of the convergence criteria, including the exchange rate criterion, will be considered by the European Commission and the European Monetary Institute, when preparing their reports to the Council of Ministers under article 109j(1), and thereafter by the Council itself, when it assesses those reports under article 109j(2).

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if it is the aim of Her Majesty's Government to seek to rejoin fixed exchange rates. [34421]

Mr. Clarke *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The Government recognise the value of stable exchange rates but do not set target rates.

Computer Equipment Supplies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the past five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34564]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The table shows the 10 top suppliers of computer equipment to Her Majesty's Treasury from the financial year 1991–92 to date.

£ thousand

Supplier	*Total value of contract (including. VAT)*
ICL (UK) Ltd.	2,108
IBM (UK) Ltd.	1,672
Compstand Ltd.	1,307
Viglen Ltd.	1,195
Anage Printing Systems Ltd.	405
Computacentre Ltd.	397
Tandon Plc	232
Olivetti (UK) Ltd.	195
P.C.S. Ltd.	181
Profile Computers Plc	152

Information for 1990–91 is not readily available and cannot be obtained except at disproportionate cost. Her Majesty's Treasury did not have any agencies in the period reported above.

Wage Levels

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the latest comparable figures, showing numbers and percentages of the working population in each European Union country who are earning on or below the equivalent of £2.50 per hour. [34577]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The number of people in Great Britain earning below £2.50 per hour is estimated to be around 800,000, based on the results of the winter 1994–95 labour force survey. This represents 4 per cent. of employees. Comparable figures for other European Union countries are not available.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Transport

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Prime Minister what was the total cost of ministerial transport in each of the past five years. [34776]

The Prime Minister: The information as requested is not available. It can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Prime Minister what considerations underlie his policy with regard to minimum wage *(a)* in agriculture and *(b)* in other sectors; and if he will make a statement. [34997]

The Prime Minister: The Government remain of the view that statutory wage fixing arrangements, wherever they occur, destroy jobs and prevent job creation. That is why we abolished the wages councils and are keeping the future existence of the agricultural wages board under close review. It is also why we will never introduce the nonsense of a national minimum wage.

Royal British Legion

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Prime Minister what recent representations he has had from the Royal British Legion about the decision of its annual conference on the establishment of an ex-service affairs unit within Government; what reply he is sending; and if he will make a statement. [34392]

The Prime Minister: I have recently received a letter from the national chairman of the Royal British Legion on the question of establishing an ex-services affairs unit. I have asked my noble Friend Lord MacKay of Ardbrecknish to consider the points made on reply on my behalf.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Scott Inquiry

32. **Mr. William O'Brien:** To ask the Attorney-General what requests his Department has received to give further evidence to the Scott inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [32756]

The Attorney-General: Since 31 October 1994, when I last answered a question on this aspect, there have been additional requests for evidence in respect of two officials in the Departments for which I have ministerial responsibility. In all, seven officials from my Departments have given evidence to the inquiry at some time.

Public Interest Immunity Certificates

33. **Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Attorney-General if he will review the practice of asking Ministers to sign public interest immunity certificates. [32757]

The Attorney-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice).

Crown Office, Edinburgh

34. **Mr. Dalyell:** To ask the Attorney-General if he will make a statement on the arrangements made between his office and the Crown office in Edinburgh. [32758]

The Solicitor-General: My office and the Crown office in Edinburgh consult each other on matters where they share a common interest.

Combat 18

35. **Mr. Sumberg:** To ask the Attorney-General what further reports he has received about the activities of Combat 18. [32759]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers have requested that they be kept closely informed of progress in this matter and have stressed the need for inquiries and for the subsequent consideration of the evidence to be speedily concluded.

Asil Nadir

36. **Mrs. Roche:** To ask the Attorney-General, pursuant to his answer of 24 April, *Official Report*, column *341*, what further measures he is taking to expedite the case of Asil Nadir. [32760]

The Solicitor-General: The case against Asil Nadir can proceed only when he returns, or is returned, to the jurisdiction. A warrant has been issued for his arrest and the Serious Fraud Office remains ready to proceed with the trial.

Serious Fraud Office

Mr. Hawkins: To ask the Attorney-General what plans he has to extend further the use of computers and other information technology by the Serious Fraud Office.

The Attorney-General: The use of computers and information technology has already brought real benefits to the investigation and presentation of cases by the Serious Fraud Office. Current projects include the development of improved document storage and retrieval systems.

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Attorney-General what recent meetings he has had with the Serious Fraud Office to discuss City fraud. [32762]

The Solicitor-General: I frequently meet the director of the Serious Fraud Office to discuss matters of departmental interest, including particular cases.

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To ask the Attorney-General if he will appoint a senior QC to inquire into allegations made to his Department by senior lawyers in respect of the accuracy of the information supplied by the Serious Fraud Office and its counsel to the Attorney-General to answer parliamentary questions on 17 December 1993. [35091]

The Attorney-General: No.

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Attorney-General what assessment he has made of the performance of the Crown Prosecution Service; and if he will make a statement. [32754]

The Attorney-General: The performance of the Crown Prosecution Service is monitored at regular meetings between the Law Officers and the Director of Public Prosecutions. The service handles about 1.5 million cases per year, with a conviction rate in the year to March 1995 of 97.8 per cent. in the magistrates court and 90.3 per cent. in the Crown court.

Roger Levitt Case

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To ask the Attorney General (1) if he will define the term "suggestion" as set out in his answer to the hon. Member for Hendon, South (Mr. Marshall), 9 December 1993, *Official Report*, columns *332–33*, concerning the case of Roger Levitt; [35090]

(2) pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Swansea, East (Mr. Anderson) 19 June, *Official Report*, columns *68–70*, with regard to the meeting which took place on 5 November, comprising prosecuting counsel and the director of the Serious Fraud Office, to discuss possible pleas in the case of Roger Levitt, on what date and in what form possible pleas were communicated to the defence; and if they amounted, in whatever form they were communicated, to a suggestion that Mr. Roger Levitt might plead guilty to only some of the charges; [35089]

(3) pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Swansea, East of 19 June, *Official Report*, columns *68–70*, with reference to his statement about the Crown's likely attitude if Mr. Levitt tendered particular pleas, for what reasons this did not constitute a suggestion that Mr. Roger Levitt might plead guilty to only some of the charges; [35108]

(4) pursuant to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.11 of Mr. David Cocks' evidence to the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, cited during the Committee's oral evidence session of 11 July, if a suggestion was made by the prosecution during discussions before 22 November 1993 that Mr. Roger Levitt might plead guilty to only some of the charges. [35088]

The Attorney-General: I refer the hon. Member to the series of very full answers which I have already given and in particular to the sequence of informal discussions between counsel and prosecuting counsel's recollection of the circumstances surrounding and following the meeting on 5 November 1993 which have already been set out in my answers of 19 June 1995 to the hon. Member for Swansea, East (Mr. Anderson) *Official Report*, columns *68–70*, and of 28 June to the hon. Member for Warwickshire, South (Mr. O'Brien), *Official Report*, column *704*.

The word "suggestion" in my answers of 9 December 1993 focused on the nub of the question tabled by my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon, South (Mr. Marshall), which asked

"When the Serious Fraud Office ... first suggested to the counsel to Mr. Roger Levitt that he plead guilty to only some of the charges".—*Official Report*, 9 December 1993; Vol. 234, columns *332–33*.

This was understood, in the context of the other questions asked by my hon. Friend which were critical of the Serious Fraud Office, to carry the implication that the Serious Fraud Office had improperly taken the initiative from an early date, seeking, in words later used by leading counsel for Mr. Levitt, to throw in the towel. I was concerned to refute that allegation immediately. Had I at that date known of the full sequence of events to which I have referred above I would have taken account of it in my answer.

The series of answers I have given to the House on this case give a full and fair picture of my understanding of the relevant events.

Mr. O'Brien: To ask the Attorney-General, pursuant to the submissions received by his Department from *(a)* Jonathan Goldberg and *(b)* Sasha Wass in respect of the Roger Levitt case and the oral evidence heard by the Treasury and Civil Service Committee on 11 July, what assessment he has made of the accuracy of statements by (1) Mr. David Cocks and (2) Mr. Jonathan Fisher in respect of (i) telephone conversations on 21 November 1993 and (ii) the initial meeting on 22 November. [35087]

The Attorney-General: Regrettably, the accounts given by prosecuting and defence counsel differ significantly and I do not consider that it is right for me to say more than that it is clear that they see the matter very differently.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Attorney-General how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholding in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33413]

The Attorney-General: All staff serving in the Departments for which I am responsible are required to consult management about the desirability of acquiring or retaining any shareholding which might give rise to a possible conflict of interest. Comprehensive records are not held centrally of the occasions on which shareholdings are declared or required to be disposed of.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

N. M. Rothschild and Son Ltd.

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the latest estimate for the number of hours worked by N. M. Rothschild on providing advice on the privatisation of the coal industry; and when the contract is expected to end. [34429]

Mr. Page: N. M. Rothschild has, to date, worked approximately 37,500 hours on providing advice on the privatisation of the coal industry. In answer to the second question, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 21 February 1995, *Official Report*, column *109*.

Innovation and Technology Counsellors

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is his Department's target date for the appointment of innovation and technology counsellors by all business links. [33555]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The White Paper "Competitiveness: Forging Ahead" announced that up to £4.3 million per year is available to allow all business link partnerships to provide an innovation and technology counselling—ITC—service. Through the appropriate training and education council, each business link has been invited to bid for funds to operate an ITC service, once its business link proposal has been approved by the business link assessment panel. Twenty-two business links already have innovation and technology counsellors and the target for all business links to have an ITC service is summer 1996.

Arms Exports (Iran)

Dr. John Cunningham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade on what exact date during the Iran-Iraq war Ministers in his Department first agreed that licences could be granted for exports to Iran when the applications were not accompanied by the required documentation. [33972]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* No such policy decision was taken by Department of Trade and Industry Ministers.

Oil and Gas platform Orders

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many fabrication orders relating to the United Kingdom continental shelf gas and oil industry have been allocated per company to United Kingdom-based fabrication yards in each of the past five financial years; and how many orders from operators in the United Kingdom continental shelf area have been allocated to *(a)* European Union countries and *(b)* Korea. [33324]

Mr. Page *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* Information on major platform orders for the calendar years 1990 to 1995, thus far, is contained in the table:

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*
AMEC	1	4	3	1	0	1
Consafe	0	2	0	2	0	2
Costain/TW	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hi-FAb	2	5	1	1	5	0
Lewis O/S	0	0	0	0	0	1
McDermott	2	0	0	0	2	1
McNulty	0	0	0	0	0	1
SLP (L)	2	0	1	1	0	2
SLP (M)	1	2	1	2	0	1
THC	2	1	0	1	0	0
THOF (M)	4	2	1	3	0	2
THOF (T)	3	2	0	1	0	1
UIE	0	1	2	0	1	0
Total	17	19	9	12	9	12
Other EU	5	5	3	2	1	2
Korea	0	1	0	1	0	0

National Engineering Laboratory

Mr. Ingram: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many staff are currently employed at the National Engineering Laboratory; and if he will make a statement on the detailed provisions which will apply to them in the privatisation of the laboratory. [34566]

Mr. Ian Taylor: Following the statement by my right hon. Friend the then President of the Board of Trade on 14 April 1994, *Official Report*, columns *251–53*, regarding the future of the National Engineering Laboratory, good progress has been made with the trade sale. I hope to be in a position to announce a preferred bidder at the end of this month or early next month and I shall write to the hon. Member. At this stage, it is not possible to say what will be the detailed provisions that will apply to the 234 staff currently at the laboratory, but the terms and conditions of staff who transfer will be preserved under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981.

Small Firms (Financial Difficulty)

Mrs. Liddell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assistance the Government provide for small firms that are facing short-term financial difficulties. [34502]

Mr. Page: Small firms facing short-term financial difficulties would usually approach their bank or other finance provider for assistance. The Government provide assistance to business support networks through which small firms can seek advice appropriate to their circumstances.

Industrial Tribunals

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many industrial tribunal cases were considered in each year since 1986, by region; and how many in each case resulted in a verdict of unfair dismissal. [34061]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The number of industrial tribunal cases—all jurisidictions—considered at a hearing, by region, in each year since 1986 is shown in the table. The number of successful unfair dismissal cases is also shown.

Region (England and Wales)	*Number of cases heard*	*Number of successful unfair dismissal cases*
1986–87		
Bedford	675	187
Birmingham	1,249	297
Bristol	627	147
Cardiff	589	120
Leeds	1,411	369
London North	1,067	251
London South	1,855	384
Manchester	1,774	500
Newcastle	762	110
Nottingham	660	170
Southampton	592	160
Scotland	1,823	433
Totals	13,084	3,128
1987–88		
Bedford	557	176
Birmingham	899	225
Bristol	552	83
Cardiff	631	95
Leeds	1,047	247
London North	890	201
London South	1,094	260
Manchester	1,485	350
Newcastle	492	105
Nottingham	522	125
Southampton	556	157
Scotland	1,727	368
Totals	10,452	2,392
1988–89		
Bedford	460	103
Birmingham	727	172
Bristol	544	138
Cardiff	476	107
Leeds	843	227
London North	947	169
London South	992	219
Manchester	1,239	348
Newcastle	374	76
Nottingham	465	111
Southampton	572	161
Scotland	1,384	335
Totals	9,023	2,166

Region (England and Wales)	Number of cases heard	Number of successful unfair dismissal cases
1989–90		
Bedford	550	157
Birmingham	779	158
Bristol	601	109
Cardiff	761	110
Leeds	1,249	263
London North	678	159
London South	1,184	259
Manchester	1,339	361
Newcastle	503	115
Nottingham	558	117
Southampton	716	169
Scotland	1,311	567
Totals	10,229	2,544
1990–91		
Bedford	691	177
Birmingham	828	219
Bristol	697	159
Cardiff	609	124
Leeds	1,128	277
London North	1,058	236
London South	1,221	202
Manchester	1,561	374
Newcastle	522	114
Nottingham	562	122
Southampton	871	198
Scotland	1,682	328
Totals	11,430	2,530
1991–92		
Bedford	862	265
Birmingham	1,013	269
Bristol	1,047	213
Cardiff	880	192
Leeds	1,644	429
London North	952	258
London South	1,593	382
Manchester	1,999	433
Newcastle	449	130
Nottingham	892	205
Southampton	1,141	336
Scotland	1,382	324
Totals	13,854	3,436
1992–93		
Bedford	1,136	338
Birmingham	1,621	368
Bristol	1,254	307
Cardiff	1,091	245
Leeds	1,727	460
London North	1,406	377
London South	1,720	444
Manchester	2,198	569
Newcastle	1,047	270
Nottingham	1,353	360
Southampton	1,365	353
Scotland	1,760	453
Totals	17,678	4,544
1993–94		
Bedford	1,765	507
Birmingham	2,014	533
Bristol	1,478	384
Cardiff	1,442	277
Leeds	2,351	494
London North	1,817	470
London South	2,329	714
Manchester	3,261	819
Newcastle	1,382	379
Nottingham	1,619	436
Southampton	1,950	461
Scotland	1,888	479
Totals	23,296	5,953
1994–95		
Bedford	1,586	374
Birmingham	1,790	352
Bristol	1,201	248
Cardiff	1,346	196
Leeds	1,827	438
London North	5,328	544
London South	2,249	510
Manchester	2,879	736
Newcastle	1,078	252
Nottingham	1,329	276
Southampton	1,870	381
Scotland	2,400	521
Totals	24,883	4,828

Fraud (Legislation)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what proposals he has for legislation under which the auditor duties for reporting material fraud to the regulators applicable in the financial sector will also apply to the corporate sector; [33925]

(2) what proposals he has for legislation under which company auditors will have a statutory duty to detect and report material fraud to the regulators. [33926]

Mr. Oppenheim: The rights and duties of auditors to report to regulators in the financial sector were set out in the auditing practices board's statement of auditing standards No. 620, issued in March 1994. In January 1995, the APB published two statements of auditing standards that clarify the rights and duties of auditors when reporting fraud or any other non-compliance with regulations. These are SAS 110, "Fraud and Error," and SAS 120, "Consideration of Law and Regulations". Copies of these documents are available for inspection in the Library of the House.

Insolvency Practitioners (Regulation)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the organisations responsible for regulating insolvency practitioners with the number of practitioners regulated by each and the number of practitioners disqualified by each. [33924]

Mr. Oppenheim: The information is as follows:

Regulating organisation	Number of practitioners at 31 December 94	Number disqualified/refused in year ended 31 December 94
Chartered Association of Certified Accountants	102	2
Insolvency Practitioners Association	271	2
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales	924	1

Regulating organisation	Number of practitioners at 31 December 94	Number disqualified/refused in year ended 31 December 94
Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland	78	—
Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland	187	—
Law Society	190	—
The Law Society of Scotland	28	—
The Secretary of State	151	4

The number of practitioners disqualified does not include those whose licences were surrendered voluntarily or applications for renewal were withdrawn in order to avoid proceedings which may have resulted in their disqualification.

Caparo Judgment

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what proposals he has for legislation under which company auditors will owe a duty of care to current individual shareholders and creditors; [34096]

(2) what proposals he has for statutory reversal of the Caparo judgment. [34103]

Mr. Oppenheim: I have no plans to change the current state of the law, but am keeping the situation under review.

Director General of Electricity Supply

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what discussions he has had with the electricity regulator concerning the regulator's handling of price sensitive information; and if he will make a statement. [34279]

Mr. Eggar: It is for the Director General of Electricity Supply to decide how he handles price sensitive information.

Particulate PM10 Pollution

Ms Ruddock: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what research has been commissioned by his Department into levels of particulate PM10 pollution in rural areas; what were the conclusions; and if he will publish the results. [35024]

Mr. Page: My Department commissioned a limited series of measurements of airborne particulates at a single rural site earlier this year. The results are being prepared for publication in the near future.

Science

Mrs. Ann Taylor: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which Government Department is responsible for *(a)* the science budget, *(b)* science education, *(c)* policy to promote the public understanding of science and *(d)* funding the research councils. [34576]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The Office of Science and Technology's responsibilities for *(a)*, *(c)* and *(d)* and its joint responsibilities with the Education Departments for post-graduate science education are unchanged with the office's transfer to the Department of Trade and Industry. The Government's commitment to science, engineering and technology, and to the support of the science and engineering base, remain as set out in the 1993 White Paper "Realising our Potential", and policies are targeted to ensure the maximum contribution to our national economic performance and quality of life.

Systematic interchange between industry, scientists, engineers and science policy makers both in the public and private sectors will improve mutual understanding and allow each group to make its decisions against a better informed background.

Bellerton Lane, Norton

Ms Walley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the individual plots of land adjacent to Bellerton lane, Norton, Stoke on Trent, sold by British Coal in the last 10 years; and who purchased each site. [34297]

Mr. Page: This is a matter for British Coal.

Shipbuilding and Repair

Mr. Davidson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many people were employed in shipbuilding and ship repair in *(a)* 1965, *(b)* 1970, *(c)* 1980, *(d)* 1985, *(e)* 1990 and *(f)* 1995; and if he will make a statement. [33681]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Information on employment in the shipbuilding and ship repair industry is available from the periodic censuses of employment. The table shows the number employed in this industry, for years where the information is directly comparable:

Number of employees in employment in the shipbuilding and ship repair industry[1] in Great Britain, in September of each year

	Number
1981	120,800
1984	90,200
1987	58,200
1989	51,200
1991	47,000

[1] Group 371 of the standard industrial classification 1980.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Duchy Accounts

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Duchy will be presenting to Parliament its next set of accounts. [35283]

Mr. Freeman: The financial year for the Duchy's accounts has been changed from 30 September to 31 March. Audited accounts for the part-year period from 30 September 1994 to 31 March 1995 are therefore being presented today. In future, 12-month accounts to 31 March will be presented before the House rises for that year's summer recess.

Occupational Health and Safety Agency

Lady Olga Maitland: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what key performance targets he has set for the Occupational Health and Safety Agency for the current year. [35284]

Mr. Horam: The key performance targets for the Occupational Health and Safety Agency for 1995–96 are to break even in accrual accounting terms; to turn around, within 15 days, 85 per cent. of case referrals where no additional information is required and 58 per cent. within 40 days when additional information is required; to earn customer post-service satisfaction evaluations of 90 per cent. in the two highest categories; and to issue at least 95 per cent. of invoices error free.

In addition, the agency has cost containment targets, details of which are commercially sensitive.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff will be allocated to working in the offices and department of the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary; and what is the estimated annual cost of such staff. [34005]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply. I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 11 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *496* and to that which I gave the hon. Member for Gordon on 13 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *751*.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the past year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33872]

Mr. Horam: My answer covers the Cabinet Office, Office of Public Service, its executive agencies, Her Majesty's Stationery Office and the Central Office of Information. In 1994–95 the following firms of consultants were employed on contracts costing more than £1,000 per consultant per day including expenses and VAT:

Coopers and Lybrand; Domino Consultancy; Human Assets Ltd.; International Computers Ltd.; Moores Rowland; PA Consulting; Pearn Kandola; Price Waterhouse.

Civil Servants (Travel Expenses)

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the total cost of travel expenses claimed by civil servants using their own vehicles for official business in each of the past five years; and what the saving would have been in the last year if the maximum rate that could be claimed was set at the current lowest rate. [34781]

Mr. Horam: These details are not kept centrally.

Dr. Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what rates of travel allowance may be claimed by civil servants when using their own vehicles for official business. [34780]

Mr. Horam: Departments and agencies are responsible for setting the rates of allowances to reimburse staff for travel by private vehicle on official business. Details of the rates are not collected centrally.

Magistrates (Secret Societies)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many magistrates there are in the Duchy; and how many have declared they are freemasons or members of any other secret society. [34942]

Mr. Freeman: There are 4,200 magistrates in the Duchy area.

No statistics are kept on the number of magistrates who are freemasons or who belong to other secret societies.

Being a freemason or member of any society is neither a qualification nor a disqualification to becoming a magistrate.

All magistrates take a judicial oath to dispense justice without fear or favour.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for how long it has been the practice for candidates for the magistracy in the Duchy of Lancaster to declare membership of secret societies. [34943]

Mr. Freeman: Advisory committees ask candidates for the magistracy about their outside interests. This has been the practice for many years.

The overriding requirement is suitability for recommendation for appointment.

SCOTLAND

Community Nurses

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* health visitors, *(b)* district nurses, *(c)* community psychiatric nurses and *(d)* school nurses were employed in each area of Scotland on 30 September 1993, and for the latest date available, expressed as whole-time equivalents and actual numbers: and if he will list the same information for student health visitors and student district nurses. [33257]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information requested is shown in the tables:

Selected community nursing staff by health board as at 30 September 1993

Whole-time equivalent

	Argyll and Clyde	*Ayrshire and Arran*	*Borders*	*Dumfries and Galloway*	*Fife*	*Forth Valley*	*Grampian*	*Greater Glasgow*
Health visitors	157.9	90.7	38.4	42.8	110.7	90.2	203.3	306.9
Health visitor[1]	126.7	88.7	24.4	27.0	110.7	83.6	185.8	289.3
Health visitors with combined duties[2]	31.2	2.0	14.0	15.8	—	6.6	17.5	17.6
District nurses	205.4	126.3	51.4	76.1	132.2	135.5	213.9	375.1
District nurse[1]	156.2	126.3	6.0	45.6	132.2	116.9	149.6	357.5
District nurses with combined duties[2]	49.2	—	45.4	30.5	—	18.6	64.3	17.6
Community psychiatric nurse	31.4	27.0	7.7	19.0	27.0	26.2	34.0	45.6
School nurse	26.6	20.9	4.5	7.6	29.8	13.0	15.4	55.8
Student health visitors (number)[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	10
Student district nurses (number)[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	13

[1] The figures for health visitors and district nurses probably include some staff without an HV or DN qualification working in these fields, probably in a supporting role.
[2] Health visitors with combined duties including district nursing and vice versa are included under both categories in the table. (i.e. double counted).
[3] The figures for student health visitors and district nurses are provided according to the health board where their training college places are located. Other health boards may have students in these colleges and cannot be assumed to be zero. Data are at 31 October.

Selected community nursing staff by health board as at 30 September 1993

Whole-time equivalent

	Highland	*Lanarkshire*	*Lothian*	*Orkney*	*Shetland*	*Tayside*	*Western Isles*
Health visitors	85.1	166.8	212.2	9.0	13.0	128.8	8.1
Health visitor[1]	47.2	157.8	210.1	4.0	6.0	109.8	8.1
Health visitors with combined duties[2]	37.9	9.0	2.1	5.0	7.0	19.0	—
District nurses	165.1	207.2	240.3	35.0	24.3	170.2	29.7
District nurse[1]	49.8	174.1	239.0	17.0	5.8	122.0	—
District nurses with combined duties[2]	115.3	33.1	1.3	18.0	18.5	48.2	29.7
Community psychiatric nurse	19.0	16.0	61.0	—	2.0	32.4	6.1
School nurse	14.2	41.0	31.5	—	0.8	20.9	—
Student health visitors (number)[3]	—	—	11	—	—	9	—
Student district nurses (number)[3]	—	—	15	—	—	9	—

[1] The figures for health visitors and district nurses probably include some staff without an HV or DN qualification working on these fields, probably in a supporting role.
[2] Health visitors with combined duties including district nursing and vice versa are included under both categories in the table. (i.e. double counted).
[3] The figures for student health visitors and district nurses are provided according to the health board where their training college places are located. Other health boards may have students in these colleges and cannot be assumed to be zero. Data are at 31 October.

Selected community nursing staff by health board as at 30 September 1993

Number

	Argyll and Clyde	*Ayrshire and Arran*	*Borders*	*Dumfries and Galloway*	*Fife*	*Forth Valley*	*Grampian*	*Greater Glasgow*
Health visitors	174	102	40	47	123	96	225	327
Health visitor[1]	142	100	26	30	123	89	207	307
Health visitors with combined duties[2]	32	2	14	17	—	7	18	20
District nurses	250	151	61	100	143	154	270	458
District nurse[1]	195	151	10	65	143	135	199	438
District nurses with combined duties[2]	55	—	51	35	—	19	71	20

Selected community nursing staff by health board as at 30 September 1993

Number

	Argyll and Clyde	*Ayrshire and Arran*	*Borders*	*Dumfries and Galloway*	*Fife*	*Forth Valley*	*Grampian*	*Greater Glasgow*
Community psychiatric nurse	32	27	8	19	27	27	35	47
School nurse	35	27	6	13	36	16	27	63
Student health visitors[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	10
Student district nurses[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	13

[1] The figures for health visitors and district nurses probably include some staff without an HV or DN qualification working in these fields, probably in a supporting role.
[2] Health visitors with combined duties including district nursing and vice versa are included under both categories in the table. (i.e. double counted).
[3] The figures for student health visitors and district nurses are provided according to the health board where their training college places are located. Other health boards may have students in these colleges and cannot be assumed to be zero. Data are at 31 October.

Selected community nursing staff by health board as at 30 September 1993

Number

	Highland	*Lanarkshire*	*Lothian*	*Orkney*	*Shetland*	*Tayside*	*Western Isles*
Health visitors	94	181	243	9	13	140	9
Health visitor[1]	54	172	240	4	6	121	9
Health visitors with combined duties[2]	40	9	3	5	7	19	—
District nurses	206	239	308	38	26	210	36
District nurse[1]	64	204	306	20	7	158	—
District nurses with combined duties[2]	142	35	2	18	19	52	36
Community psychiatric nurse	19	16	61	—	2	33	7
School Nurse	19	47	42	—	1	34	—
Student health visitors[3]	—	—	11	—	—	9	—
Student district nurses[3]	—	—	15	—	—	9	—

[1] The figures for health visitors and district nurses probably include some staff without an HV or DN qualification working in these fields, probably in a supporting role.
[2] Health visitors with combined duties including district nursing and vice versa are included under both categories in the table. (i.e.double counted).
[3] The figures for student health visitors and district nurses are provided according to the health board where their training college places are located.
Other health boards may have students in these colleges and cannot be assumed to be zero. Data are at 31 October.

Selected community nursing staff by health board as at 30 September 1994

Whole-time equivalent

	Argyll and Clyde	*Ayrshire and Arran*	*Borders*	*Dumfries and Galloway*	*Fife*	*Forth Valley*	*Grampian*	*Greater Glasgow*
Health visitors	150.1	87.3	38.8	42.9	111.8	85.4	199.7	281.0
Health visitor[1]	122.8	85.3	24.8	27.6	111.8	81.4	181.5	272.1
Health visitors with combined duties[2]	27.3	2.0	14.0	15.3	—	4.0	18.2	8.9
District nurses	192.0	136.6	51.7	75.1	129.3	134.1	210.5	376.4
District nurse[1]	149.7	136.6	6.5	45.7	129.3	118.8	140.7	367.5
District nurses with combined duties[2]	42.3	—	45.2	29.4	—	15.3	69.8	8.9
Community psychiatric nurse	34.4	40.8	12.7	24.5	24.6	26.0	30.3	38.6
School nurse	29.0	19.9	3.5	7.5	28.9	13.5	15.5	54.8
Student health visitors (number)[3]	19	—	—	—	—	—	36	20
Student district nurses (number)[3]	13	—	—	—	—	—	39	28

[1] The figures for health visitors and district nurses probably include some staff without an HV or DN qualification working in these fields, probably in a supporting role.
[2] Health visitors with combined duties including district nursing and vice versa are included under both categories in the table. (i.e. double counted)
[3] The figures for student health visitors and district nurses are provided according to the health board where their training college places are located. Other health boards may have students in these colleges and cannot be assumed to be zero. Data ate at 31 October.

	Highland	Lanarkshire	Lothian	Orkney	Shetland	Tayside	Western Isles
Health visitors	82.3	156.6	210.1	10.0	16.0	132.0	9.4
Health visitors[1]	46.7	149.6	208.8	5.0	7.0	110.2	8.4
Health visitors with combined duties[2]	35.6	7.0	1.3	5.0	9.0	21.8	1.0
District nurses	162.8	191.8	246.5	32.5	27.8	179.1	30.1
District nurse[1]	53.5	163.9	245.2	14.5	7.3	126.0	—
District nurses with combined duties[2]	109.3	27.9	1.3	18.0	20.5	53.1	30.1
Community psychiatric nurse	20.0	16.0	58.5	—	3.0	36.9	6.3
School nurse	15.0	42.0	33.3	—	2.4	20.0	1.8
Student health visitors(number)[3]	—	—	10	—	—	16	—
Student district nurses(number)[3]	—	—	13	—	—	12	—

[1] The figures for health visitors and district nurses probably include some staff without an HV or DN qualification working in these fields, probably in a supporting role.
[2] Health visitors with combined duties including district nursing and vice versa are included under both categories in the table. (i.e. double counted).
[3] The figures for student health visitors and district nurses are provided according to the health board where their training college places are located.
Other health boards may have students in these colleges and cannot be assumed to be zero. Data are at 31 October.

Selected community nursing staff by health board as at 30 September 1994

Number

	Argyll and Clyde	Ayrshire and Arran	Borders	Dumfries and Galloway	Fife	Forth Valley	Grampian	Greater Glasgow
Health visitors	169	95	41	48	126	92	229	302
Health visitor[1]	141	93	27	32	126	88	210	291
Health visitors with combined duties[2]	28	2	14	16	—	4	19	11
District nurses	240	172	61	110	145	156	265	457
District nurse[1]	193	172	11	76	145	140	188	446
District nurses with combined duties[2]	47	—	50	34	—	16	77	11
Community psychiatric nurse	35	41	13	25	25	27	31	40
School nurse	39	26	5	13	36	16	27	63
Student health visitors[3]	19	—	—	—	—	—	36	20
Student district nurses[3]	13	—	—	—	—	—	39	28

[1] The figures for health visitors and district nurses probably include some staff without an HV or DN qualification working in these fields, probably in a supporting role.
[2] Health visitors with combined duties including district nursing and vice versa are included under both categories in the table. (i.e. double counted).
[3] The figures for student health visitors and district nurses are provided according to the health board where their training college places are located. Other health boards may have students in these colleges and cannot be assumed to be zero. Data are at 31 October.

Selected community nursing staff by health board as at 30 September 1994

	Highland	Lanarkshire	Lothian	Orkney	Shetland	Tayside	Western Isles
Health visitors	90	171	242	10	16	145	10
Health visitor[1]	53	164	240	5	7	123	9
Health visitors with combined duties[2]	37	7	2	5	9	22	1
District nurses	203	220	322	36	29	220	35
District nurse[1]	70	191	320	18	8	164	—
District nurses with combined duties[2]	133	29	2	18	21	56	35
Community psychiatric nurse	20	16	59	—	3	38	7
School nurse	20	49	45	—	3	30	2
Student health visitors[3]	—	—	10	—	—	16	—
Student district nurses[3]	—	—	13	—	—	12	—

[1] The figures for health visitors and district nurses probably include some staff without an HV or DN qualification working in these fields, probably in a supporting role.
[2] Health visitors with combined duties including district nursing and vice versa are included under both categories in the table. (i.e. double counted).
[3] The figures for student health visitors and district nurses are provided according to the health board where their training college places are located. Other health boards may have students in these colleges and cannot be assumed to be zero. Data are at 31 October.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish a breakdown by area of the health visitors, district nurses and school nurses by each income band for September 1993 and the latest date for which information is available. [33258]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: As the information requested is lengthy, I have arranged for copies of the tables to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Staff Opinion Polls

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which hospital trusts in Scotland have carried out staff opinion polls in the past two years; what were the results of each of these opinion polls; and if he will make a statement. [33993]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The findings of a 1993 national survey by the NHS management executive in Scotland are set out in "Framework for Action: What Those Who Work Within the NHS in Scotland Think 1993" a copy of which is in the Library. All trusts were asked to review the findings taking account of local circumstances and to develop, implement and report on action plans to tackle those issues identified as requiring action locally. From 1995 onwards the undertaking of such surveys is a matter for individual trusts.

Health Visitors

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish a breakdown by area of the population numbers per health visitor on September 1992 and September 1993 and for the latest date for which information is available; and what is the number of health visitors *(a)* per person under five and *(b)* per person over 65 years in each area. [33529]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information requested is shown in the tables:

Population per Health Visitor[1] [2]; whole-time equivalent at 30 September

	1992	1993	1994
Argyll and Clyde	3,054.1	3,109.8	3,223.6
Ayrshire and Arran	4,228.1	4,202.5	4,369.0
Borders	3,717.6	3,527.6	3,490.8
Dumfries and Galloway	4,286.1	4,341.5	4,299.4
Fife	3,104.7	3,172.5	3,149.4
Forth Valley	2,953.0	3,152.5	3,290.9
Grampian	2,630.4	2,728.8	2,810.9
Greater Glasgow	3,007.6	3,102.1	3,332.8
Highland	3,440.3	3,400.7	3,493.5
Lanarkshire	3,529.9	3,469.7	3,673.6
Lothian	3,546.1	3,572.0	3,624.2
Orkney	2,815.7	3,293.3	2,764.2
Shetland	2,369.9	2,739.6	2,288.0
Tayside	3,403.2	3,388.4	3,339.0
Western Isles	3,861.8	3,644.4	3,356.1

[1] The figures for health visitors probably include some staff without an HV qualification working in this field, possibly in a supporting role.

[2] The whole-time equivalent of health visitors used to produce the population rates includes staff with combined duties of either or both midwifery and district nursing. For such staff a proportion of their whole-time equivalent has been included. For example, for a HV/DN combined duty nurse the health visiting contribution is assumed to be half.

Health Visitors[1] [2] per 1000 persons aged under 5 years; whole-time equivalent at 30 September

	1992	1993	1994
Argyll and Clyde	5.1	5.0	4.9
Ayrshire and Arran	3.7	3.8	3.6
Borders	4.6	4.8	4.9
Dumfries and Galloway	3.9	3.8	3.9
Fife	5.0	5.0	5.1
Forth Valley	5.4	5.1	4.9
Grampian	5.9	5.7	5.5
Greater Glasgow	5.1	5.0	4.7
Highland	4.5	4.6	4.5
Lanarkshire	4.3	4.4	4.2
Lothian	4.5	4.5	4.4
Orkney	5.2	4.6	5.5
Shetland	5.9	5.0	6.0
Tayside	4.8	4.8	4.9
Western Isles	4.2	4.5	5.0

[1] The figures for health visitors probably include some staff without an HV qualification working in this field, possibly in a suppo g role.

[2] The whole-time equivalent of health visitors used to produce the population rates includes staff with combined duties of either or both midwifery and district nursing. For such staff a proportion of their whole-time equivalent has been included. For example, for a HV/DN combined duty nurse the health visiting contribution is assumed to be half.

Health Visitors[1] [2] per 1000 persons aged over 65 years; whole-time equivalent at 30 September

£000

	1992	1993	1994
Argyll and Clyde	2.3	2.3	2.2
Ayrshire and Arran	1.6	1.6	1.5
Borders	1.5	1.6	1.6
Dumfries and Galloway	1.4	1.4	1.4
Fife	2.2	2.2	2.2
Forth Valley	2.5	2.3	2.2
Grampian	2.9	2.8	2.7
Greater Glasgow	2.3	2.2	2.1
Highland	2.1	2.1	2.0
Lanarkshire	2.4	2.4	2.3
Lothian	2.0	2.0	2.0
Orkney	2.3	2.1	2.5
Shetland	3.3	2.9	3.5
Tayside	1.8	1.8	1.9
Western Isles	1.5	1.6	1.8

[1] The figures for health visitors probably include some staff without an HV qualification working in this field, possibly in a supporting role.

[2] The whole-time equivalent of health visitors used to produce the population rates includes staff with combined duties of either or both midwifery and district nursing. For such staff a proportion of their whole-time equivalent has been included. For example, for a HV/DN combined duty nurse the health visiting contribution is assumed to be half.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

BACUP Cancer Care

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Chairman of the Administration Committee if he has considered an application for an exhibition relating to BACUP Cancer Care to be displayed in the Upper Waiting Hall. [35448]

Mr. Michael J. Martin: I understand that, under procedures agreed by the Administration Committee,

arrangements have been made for the exhibition to be held in the Upper Waiting Hall from Monday 20 November to Friday 24 November 1995.

Photopasses

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Chairman of the Administration Committee what plans he has to make photopasses more readily identifiable, and if he will make a statement. [35325]

Mr. Michael J. Martin: The Administration Committee has agreed to recommend certain revisions to make various categories of photopass more readily identifiable by differentiation of colour or superimposing a letter. Any new styles passes will be introduced by the Pass Office over the next six months:

(a) *Hon. Members:*

Green and white diagonal striped pass.

(b) *Permanent Staff (except Members' Research Assistants):*

Grey pass.

(c) *Temporary staff (except media):*

Yellow pass.

(d) *Media:*

Brown pass, with an orange "L" superimposed for those accorded Lobby status.

(e) *Members' Research Assistants:*

Grey or yellow pass as appropriate, with a red "R" superimposed. These passes have to be renewed annually.

(f) *Contractors:*

Blue pass, with a red "C" superimposed.

The Committee will keep under review whether certain other categories of pass should be of an identifiable colour.

All who work in the Palace of Westminster and in the parliamentary outbuildings must be in possession of a valid photopass, which should be worn whenever the holder is in the parliamentary estate.

Passes cannot be issued until the necessary clearance procedure is completed and anyone taking on staff should allow sufficient time for the process to be completed before employment procedures are finalised. Clearances for individuals who are foreign nationals or who have lived abroad can take several weeks and some months.

Hon. Members are reminded that passes issued to their secretaries and research assistants must be handed back to the Pass Office when their service with a Member ends.

Members' Travel Expenses

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Lord President of the Council what has been the total cost of travel expenses claimed by hon. Members for each of the past five years by *(a)* car, *(b)* train and *(c)* other means of travel. [34777]

Mr. Newton: I am advised by the Fees Office that the information requested is as follows:

(a) Car

1990–91: £4,860,982
1991–92: £5,682,276
1992–93: £5,416,393
1993–94: £5,832,266
1994–95: £6,105,196

(b) Rail

1990–91: £741,843
1991–92: £876,121
1992–93: £870,194
1993–94: £927,020
1994–95: £906,901

(c) Other

1990–91: £727,661
1991–92: £719,779
1992–93: £783,080
1993–94: £875,511
1994–95: £919,537

Office Costs Allowance

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Lord President of the Council how many hon. Members receive the office costs allowance. [34779]

Mr. Newton: I am informed by the Fees Office that 651 hon. Members receive the office costs allowance.

Members' Car Allowance

Dr. Wright: To ask the Lord President of the Council how many hon. Members claim the rate under the hon. Members' car allowance scheme for *(a)* cars under 1300 cc *(b)* cars between 1300 cc and 2300 cc and *(c)* cars over 2301 cc. [31520]

Mr. Newton: The Fees Office has advised me that the information requested is as follows:

(i) 6 Members claim all 3 rates (a) (b) and (c)
(ii) 15 Members claim rates (a) and (b)
(iii) 19 Members claim rates (a) and (c)
(iv) 113 Members claim rates (b) and (c)
(v) 478 Members claim only one rate

The total number of hon. Members claiming under the Members' car allowance scheme is 631.

WALES

Welsh Office: Highways Directorate

Mr. Sweeney: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has to change the status of the Welsh Office highways directorate. [35733]

Mr. Hague: The highways directorate is responsible for managing and improving the motorway and trunk road network in an efficient and effective way. Following an options review, I have decided to seek further efficiency improvements within the existing organisational framework. In future, the directorate will be run more on next steps lines, in order to clarify responsibility and sharpen accountability. In addition, consideration will be given to market testing certain of the directorate's functions.

Community Nurses

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many *(a)* health visitors, *(b)* district nurses, *(c)* community psychiatric nurses and *(d)* school nurses were employed in each area of Wales on 30 September

1993 and for the latest date available, expressed as whole-time equivalents and actual numbers; and if he will list the same information for student health visitors and student district nurses; [33260]

(2) if he will publish a breakdown by area of the health visitors, district nurses and school nurses by each income band for September 1993 and the latest date for which information is available; [33261]

(3) if he will publish a breakdown by area of the population numbers per health visitor on September 1992 and September 1993 and for the latest date for which information is available; and what is the number of health visitors *(a)* per under five and *(b)* per over 65 years in each area. [33262]

Mr. Richards: Reliable estimates of the numbers of nursing staff employed in specific occupational groups, such as those requested, are not available centrally.

Based on service requirements indicated by work force plans, there were 33 student health visitors and 33 student district nurses in September 1993. The figures for April 1995 were 26 and 29 respectively.

Meat and Livestock Commission

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has to establish a Welsh institution to undertake the functions currently carried out by the Meat and Livestock Commission, and if he will make a statement. [34993]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: None.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many outbreaks of tuberculosis amongst livestock were recorded in Wales during *(a)* 1992, *(b)* 1993 and *(c)* 1994; and if he will make a statement. [35056]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: In the period 1992–94 the number of confirmed tuberculosis breadowns in livestock in Wales were as follows.

1992: 37

1993: 91

1994: 269

The figures relate to cattle only. There were no cases of tuberculosis in deer.

Suckler Cow Premium Scheme

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the estimated cost of the suckler cow premium scheme for 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34991]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: A total of £20,920,338.

Sheep Annual Premium Scheme

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the cost of the sheep annual premium scheme in 1994–95; what proportion of the United Kingdom figure this represents; and if he will make a statement. [35122]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: A total of £113,300,000, which represented 28.6 per cent. of total United Kingdom expenditure.

Nitrate Sensitive Areas

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what proportion of the United Kingdom's nitrate sensitive areas are situated in Wales; and if he will make a statement; [34968]

(2) what proportion of eligible land in Welsh nitrate sensitive areas has entered the current scheme; and if he will make a statement; [34970]

(3) what was the total value of payments made to Welsh farmers under the nitrate sensitive areas scheme in 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34969]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: There are no nitrate sensitive areas designated in Wales.

Habitat Scheme

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many hectares of land were accepted into the habitat scheme in 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34987]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: No land was accepted into the scheme in 1994–95; the scheme did not become operational until 9 January 1995.

Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the value of grants paid to farmers under the farm and conservation grant scheme in 1994–95; and what proportion of the total United Kingdom figure this represented. [35125]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: A total of £5,250,000, which represented 13.7 per cent. of United Kingdom expenditure.

Training

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many formal training days per member of staff are planned by his Department in 1995–96; and if he will make a statement. [34960]

Mr. Hague: Members of staff plan their training with their line managers. Records are not kept centrally.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many hectares of land in Wales are currently covered by environmentally sensitive area agreements; and if he will make a statement. [34988]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: A total of 84,710 hectares.

Milk Producers

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the number of registered milk producers in Wales; if he will express this number as a proportion of the total number of registered milk producers in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [34975]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: On 1 July 1995, there were 4,915 milk producers in Wales. This represents 17.6 per cent. of those registered in England and Wales.

Regional Selective Assistance

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of States for Wales what proportion of his Department's budget on regional selective assistance specifically targets Wales; and if he will make a statement. [35011]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Information relating to regional selective assistance in Wales is published each year in the Welsh Office departmental report. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Business Development Consortia

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many business link shops have been opened in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [34937]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The business link network operates in England only. In Wales, the eight business development consortia approved in January are working towards developing a business support network and I expect it to be operational within the next six months.

Rural Economy

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what is his estimate for the amount of expenditure which will be incurred in Wales during 1995–96 as a part of the rural economy scheme; and if he will make a statement. [34887]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Rural Wales benefits from a number of schemes including the strategic development scheme, regional selective assistance, European structural funds, and support from the Welsh Development Agency and the Development Board for Rural Wales. Details of the expenditures are published in the Welsh Office departmental report.

David John Edwards

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has received regarding probate of the will of the late David John Edwards of Talybont, Ceredigion; and if he will make a statement. [35483]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: No representations have been received.

HEALTH

Infertility

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is his policy in respect of the recognition by the World Health Organisation of the condition that requires in-vitro fertilisation and/or gamete intra-fallopian transfer as an illness; and what guidance he has issued to health authorities. [33665]

Mr. Bowis: It is a matter for clinical judgment what treatment is appropriate for individual patients.

Mr. Hicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what advice health authorities located in the South-West and Wessex regional health authority area have sought from his Department about the most efficacious provision of infertility treatment and diagnosis in the last two years; and if he will make a statement; [34214]

(2) what contacts his Department has had with those district health authorities located in the South-West and Wessex regional health authority area about infertility treatment and investigation in the United Kingdom in the last two years; and if he will make a statement; [34264]

(3) if he will list exceptions to his policy that NHS treatments should be provided in the most cost-effective manner with specific reference to infertility treatment; and if he will make a statement. [34256]

Mr. Bowis: Advice on the provision of infertility treatment is available to all health authorities and clinicians in:

> The Effective Health Care Bulletin on "The Management of Subfertility" (August 1992), published for the NHS management executive by a consortium of Leeds and York universities and the research unit of the Royal College of Physicians.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has also published advice in "Infertility—Guidelines for Practice", RCOG Press 1992. Copies of both publications are available in the Library.

Health authorities in the South-West and Wessex RHA have not sought any particular advice from, nor been in contact with, the Department about infertility services over the last two years. Local health authorities are responsible for the provision of local health services, including the provision of infertility services. Decisions about the resources to be made available for these services must be left to individual health authorities as they are in the best position to determine priorities in the light of local needs and circumstances.

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women, have suffered from infertility problems for the last 10 years, by region. [34632]

Mr. Bowis: This information is not available.

NHS Indemnity

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will give consideration to the funding of legal claims to ensure that *(a)* purchasers and providers have access to insurance policies to indemnify themselves against claims and *(b)* budgets for patient services are not affected by the level of claims made against the unit; if he will consider any other schemes which will enable people with grievances against the national health service to have their complaints heard in whatever is the most appropriate manner with the most suitable redress and resolution being made available; and if he will make a statement. [33670]

Mr. Malone: My Department has no plans to fund legal claims made against national health service trusts.

Pilot schemes using mediation as an alternative means of handling clinical negligence claims have been launched in two English regions. We hope that mediation will prove to be a less stressful, more cost-effective and quicker option than litigation in some clinical negligence cases. Also, in response to the Wilson report "Being Heard", published in 1994, my Department published in March 1995, "Acting on Complaints", which sets out plans for a simpler, fairer and more effective NHS complaints system that we are aiming to produce from April 1996. Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library.

Foetuses

Mr. Patten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, column *221*, on what grounds he has decided that no action is called for in the light of the evidence on whether foetuses feel pain. [34076]

Mr. Bowis: The report has been made available to the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. We shall keep this issue under careful review.

Research

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research and findings his Department has carried out into *(a)* anonymous sero-testing reference samples MIF chlamydia/herpes serology, *(b)* comparisons between MCS 9406 UK calcipotrol solution and capasal in scalp psoriasis, *(c)* the treatment of patients suffering from chronic schizophrenia with open label seroquel, *(d)* a random and double-blind study of safety and efficacy of Tiagbire versus Carbamazapine as monotherapy in patients with partial seizures and *(e)* an MRI study of early childhood convulsions; what were the findings; and if he will make a statement. [34082]

Mr. Bowis: No research has been carried out on anonymised serum samples for chlamydia or herpes simplex, but the Department co-ordinates an unlinked anonymous prevalence monitoring programme in England and Wales for human immunodeficiency virus.

Medicinal products for use in clinical trials are regulated under the Medicines Act 1968 and subsidiary legislation. The Medicines Control Agency acting on behalf of the Licensing Authority, keeps confidential records of all applications to conduct clinical trials. Information from these records cannot be disclosed in accordance with section 118 of the Medicines Act.

Staff Costs, London

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what has been the cost of *(a)* managers and administrators and *(b)* medical staff working in the national health service in the Greater London area in each of the last 10 years. [34105]

Mr. Malone: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Alcohol

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response his Department will be making to the World Health Organisation's European alcohol action plan. [34446]

Mr. Bowis: The Government's alcohol policies are set out in action against alcohol misuse, 1991, and in "The Health of the Nation".

Ophthalmic Patients (Burnley General Hospital)

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Medical Devices Agency will be publishing its report regarding the incident at Burnley general hospital in which ophthalmic patients each lost an eye; what plans he has to take action against the manufacturers or suppliers of the equipment; and if he will make a statement. [34544]

Mr. Bowis: The Medical Devices Agency has investigated the incident referred to and published a hazard notice, MDA HN 9503 May 1995, copies of which will be placed in the Library. The Medical Devices Agency is working with the manufacturers to ensure that improved instructions are provided to users of the devices.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34701]

Mr. Bowis: The Department recognises the important role that small firms play in supplying health care products, including goods and services, whether for use in this country or for export. The policies adopted by the Department in support of the health care industries favour all companies equally. The Department does not collect any statistics specifically about small companies. An equally important and increasing role is played by independent firms and organisations providing residential and respite care and domiciliary and day care services. Many, but not all, such firms are small and encouraged by Government policies.

Listeria

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public interest immunity certificates he has signed in respect of documents relating to listeria in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [34407]

Mr. Bowis: My right hon. Friend has never signed a public interest immunity certificate.

Dr. Strang: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the total number of cases of reported listeria *(a)* for each year from 1985 and *(b)* for the latest available date. [34222]

Mr. Bowis: The number of cases of listeriosis reported to the Public Health Laboratory in England and Wales between 1985 and 1995 is as follows:

1985: 149
1986: 137
1987: 259
1988: 291
1989: 250
1990: 118
1991: 130
1992: 108
1993: 106
1994: 113 (provisional data)
1995: 16 (provisional data for first quarter)

Note:
These figures include a few cases from Northern Ireland.

Dr. Strang: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if

he will list the number of reported cases of listeria associated with pregnancy *(a)* for each year from 1985 and *(b)* for the latest available date. [34223]

Mr. Bowis: The number of cases of pregnancy associated listeriosis reported to the Public Health Laboratory Service in England and Wales between 1985 and 1995 is as follows:

1985: 59
1986: 42
1987: 105
1988: 122
1989: 117
1990: 26
1991: 33
1992: 25
1993: 20
1994: 25 (provisional data)
1995: 1 (provisional data for first quarter)

Note:
These figures include a few cases from Northern Ireland.

Dr. Strang: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has held with the World Health Organisation regarding listeria in food in the last five years. [34231]

Mr. Sackville: The Department maintains on-going contact with the World Health Organisation on food safety issues but has not held any specific discussions about food-borne listeriosis in the last five years.

Radiation Tests (Compensation)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many claims for compensation his Department has received relating to radiation tests on humans since 1965; and if he will make a statement. [34477]

Mr. Bowis: The Department is not aware of any such claims.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as "www.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34678]

Mr. Bowis: A selection of departmental information sources have been made available on the Government world wide web server—"http://www.open.gov.uk./doh/dhhome.htm"—since 20 June, including details of its strategic aims and objectives, national health service developments, departmental publications, progress on "The Health of the Nation" initiative and telephone inquiry services. These Internet home pages, currently under trial for six months, are being revised as new information becomes available. Following the end of the trial, a decision will be taken on whether to extend the current range of information services made available over the Internet.

Cancelled Operations

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regular monitoring his Department requires by hospitals, trusts or health district of the occasions when, prior to cancellation of an operation, a patient *(a)* arrives at hospital but is not admitted to a bed, *(b)* is admitted but undergoes no preparation and is not prohibited from food and drink and *(c)* is prepared for an operation or is prohibited from taking food and drink. [34362]

Mr. Bowis: None. Trust are required to monitor the number of occasions operations are cancelled on the day the patient is due to come into hospital or after the patient has been admitted and the occasions when a new date is not given within one months of the cancellation.

Infant Mortality

Sir Peter Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what has been the rate of infant mortality as a percentage of live births for each of the years *(a)* 1975, *(b)* 1979, *(c)* 1983, *(d)* 1987, *(e)* 1991 and the latest 12 months for which statistics are available. [34726]

Mr. Bowis: The information is shown in the table.

Infant mortality rate as a percentage of live births for the years 1975, 1979, 1983, 1987, 1991 and 1994, England and Wales.

Year	*Percentage of live births*
1975	1.57
1979	1.28
1983	1.01
1987	0.92
1991	0.74
1994	0.62

Epilepsy Research

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research his Department has carried out into a comparison of lamotrigine and valproate monotherapy in patients with primary generalised seizures; with what findings; and if he will make a statement; [34728]

(2) what research his Department has carried out into epilepsy; with what findings; and if he will make a statement. [34729]

Mr. Bowis: I am not aware of any published or current research comparing lamotrigine and valproate in monotherapy in patients with primary generalised seizures.

The main agency through which the Government fund medical research is the Medical Research Council, which receives its grant in aid from the office of my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Visually Impaired People

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for health which institutions and organisations currently provide training for rehabilitation and mobility workers for visually impaired people; how many places on such courses are presently available; and how these institutions and organisations are funded. [35008]

Mr. Bowis: Training for rehabilitation and mobility workers for visually impaired people is currently provided by the university of Central England and by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The university of Central England provides 16 places on the course for the diploma of higher education in rehabilitation studies and six on the course for the certificate of qualification in orientation and mobility with visually impaired children and young persons. The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association provides 33 placed on its diploma of higher education in rehabilitation studies courses in England and six places in Scotland.

I understand that the courses at the university of Central England are partly funded by the university with funds from the Higher Education Funding Council, supplemented by an annual grant from the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and also from income from student fees. The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a registered charity whose objects include promoting the welfare of all blind people. Courses are funded partly by the charity and also from income from student fees. Tuition fees for some students are met by local authorities, or their agents under contract to them for the provision of visual disability services. The Department's social services training support programme includes a specific sub-programme for visual disability training. Under the sub-programme, up to 70 per cent. of the tuition fees may be met by the Department of Health and the remainder by the sponsoring local authority.

Renal Services

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the consultation period ended for the review of renal services; when his Department intends to publish these findings; and if he will make a statement. [35377]

Mr. Bowis: The renal review was an internal review for the Department of Health and it has not been issued for formal consultation. Ministers are currently considering the review.

Smoking

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department has given to the relationship between long-term smoking among women and the risk of developing breast cancer; what plans his Department has to introduce new warnings on tobacco products and advertisements informing female smokers of the risk of breast cancer; and if he will make a statement. [35264]

Mr. Bowis: The Department of Health is aware of published evidence[1] that smoking seems to increase the risk of developing breast cancer to a modest extent among women who have smoked for more than 30 years.

Government health warnings, which appear on all cigarette packets, include a statement warning smokers that smoking causes cancer. The Department of Health has no plans to change the health warnings.

[1] Cigarette smoking and breast cancer. Bennicke, K. Conrad, C. et al. BMJ Vol 310 pp 1431–1433, copies of which are available in the Library.

Community Nurses

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a breakdown by region of the health visitors, district nurses and school nurses by each income band for September 1993 and the latest date for which information is available. [33251]

Mr. Sackville: This information is not available centrally.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a breakdown by region of the population numbers per health visitor on September 1992 and September 1993 and for the latest date for which information is available; and what is the number of health visitors *(a)* per under five and *(b)* per over 65 years in each region. [33253]

Mr. Sackville: The available information will be placed in the Library.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community nurses were employed by each health authority and, where relevant, by each trust within London in each year since 1987. [33252]

Mr. Bowis: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Community Care Services

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is his assessment of the percentage of NHS beds blocked due to unavailability of community care services; and if he will make a statement. [34258]

Mr. Bowis: I refer the hon. and learned Member to the reply I gave my hon. Friend the Member for South Colchester and Maldon (Mr. Whittingdale) on 22 June, column *342*.

Drugs (Payments)

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what were the figures for disbursements by the Prescription Pricing Authority in England for 1992–93 in respect of payments for drugs to dispensing doctors and drugs supplied by prescribing doctors in terms of the *(a)* net ingredient cost, *(b)* discounted cost, *(c)* VAT, *(d)* container allowance, *(e)* dispensing fees, *(f)* on costs and *(g)* in total. [34260]

Mr. Malone: Payments made by family health services authorities for 1992–93 were as follows:

Payments made to Chemists and Appliance Contractors for prescriptions dispensed

	£000
Net ingredient cost	2,697,766
Discounted cost	2,448,332
VAT	5,731
Container allowance	18,817
Dispensing fees	463,987
On cost	111,175
Total	3,063,110

Payments made to Dispensing Doctors for prescriptions dispensed and items personally administered

	£000
Net ingredient cost	190,558
Discounted cost	177,189
VAT	30,890
Container allowance	1,140
Dispensing fees	26,239
On cost	20,007
Total	255,527

Payments made to Non-dispensing Doctors for items personally administered

	£000
Net ingredient cost	37,145
Discounted cost	36,952
VAT	6,518
Container allowance	356
Dispensing fees	9,122
On cost	3,899
Total	56,859

Immunisation (Tuberculosis)

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider targeting immunisation vaccination for tuberculosis at high-risk groups; and if he will make a statement. [34262]

Mr. Bowis: The Department's recommendation for Bacille-Calmette Guérin immunisation against tuberculosis are contained in the United Kingdom health departments' memorandum "Immunisation against Infectious Disease", copies of which are available in the Library. In addition to the schools' immunisation programme, BCG immunisation is already recommended for certain high-risk groups which include certain contacts of cases, immigrants from countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis and their infants wherever they were born, certain health care and veterinary staff and some overseas travellers.

Dental Services

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the progress that has been made on the consultation and implementation of the Government's proposals for NHS dentistry as announced in April. [34257]

Mr. Malone: The Government are working closely with the General Dental Services Committee on the detailed development of the reform proposals that I announced to the House on 5 April, *Official Report*, columns *1213-15*. We are making good progress and aim to move to implement the reform measures in due course.

Long-term Health Care

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the percentage of the population requiring long-term health care for each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; what is his estimate of the percentage of the population requiring long-term health care for each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [34259]

Mr. Bowis: People with long-term health care needs are supported by a wide range of services purchased by the national health service, including in-patient hospital care, general practitioner and primary care support, and continuing care in hospital or an alternative facility. Information on the percentage of population receiving these services who have continuing health care needs is not aggregated centrally.

Day Care (Elderly)

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines are issued by his Department to health authorities on what day care facilities should be provided for the elderly; and if he will make a statement. [34261]

Mr. Bowis: The national health service executive wrote to health authorities in February 1995 drawing their attention to two publications from the Royal College of Physicians and British Geriatrics Society entitled "Geriatric Day Hospitals—their role and guidelines for good practice" and "Clinical audit scheme for geriatric day hospitals". Health authorities were asked to ensure that these documents inform their strategic planning and purchasing processes for services for elderly people. Copies are available in the Library.

NHS Organ Donor Register

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have joined the NHS organ donor register; and if he will make a statement. [34263]

Mr. Bowis: Since the national health service organ donor register was launched on 6 October 1994, over 1.5 million people have joined the register, of which around 400,000 of these were transferred from the existing lifeline Wales register. We shall continue to promote the NHS organ donor register and to support publicity campaigns for this important initiative to encourage organ donation.

Food Safety

Dr. Strang: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions and advice his Department has been involved with regarding food safety issues with members of the medical profession in the last five years; [34227]

(2) what discussions and advice his Department has been involved with regarding concerns over listeria in food, with members of the medical profession in the last five years. [34228]

Mr. Sackville: The Department maintains on-going contact with the medical profession of food safety issues, including food-borne listeriosis. The Department also receives expert advice on microbiological food safety from the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food which includes members of the medical profession.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in England and Wales are awaiting transplant surgery for each organ in each health region for the latest year for which information is available. [34646]

Mr. Bowis: The tables show the information for the year ending 31 December 1994, and the same information as at 12 July 1995. There is considerable variation between the numbers waiting in each region because heart, lung and liver transplants are funded supra-regionally.

Table 1: Number of patients on the national United Kingdom Transplant Support Services Authority transplant waiting list at 31 December 1994 by region of registration

Region	Organ						
	Kidney	Pancreas	Kidney and pancreas	Heart	Lung	Heart/Lung	Liver
Northern and Yorkshire	471	0	15	35	78	20	16
Trent	431	0	0	33	10	1	0
Anglia and Oxford	317	0	2	21	10	37	14
North Thames	837	0	3	102	71	111	20
South Thames	573	1	0	22	1	0	14
South West	441	0	1	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	484	0	3	14	7	1	36
North West	573	2	19	43	16	15	0
Wales	92	1	2	0	0	0	0
Total	4,219	4	45	270	193	185	100

Table 2: Number of patients on the national United Kingdom Transplant Support Services Authority transplant waiting list at 12 July 1994 by region of registration

Region	Organ						
	Kidney	Pancreas	Kidney and pancreas	Heart	Lung	Heart/Lung	Liver
Northern and Yorkshire	469	0	17	43	86	17	17
Trent	433	0	0	41	12	1	0
Anglia and Oxford	359	0	2	13	11	30	24
North Thames	855	1	6	107	74	110	23
South Thames	595	1	0	29	2	1	34
South West	468	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	509	1	7	19	6	5	38
North West	578	0	14	43	21	11	0
Wales	108	1	2	0	0	0	0
Total	4,374	4	48	295	212	175	136

Medical Graduates

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the numbers of *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses who do not take on NHS posts after completing their training. [34786]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

NHS Staff

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department or the NHS executive hold on *(a)* managerial and *(b)* general practitioner posts that are vacant. [34783]

Mr. Malone: None. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 12 June, *Official Report*, column *361*, about general practitioner vacancies.

Consultants (Early Retirement)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants have taken early retirement in each region in each quarter over the last five years. [34787]

Mr. Malone: Regional information is not available centrally.

Waiting Times

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each region waiting *(a)* more than six months for an out-patient appointment and *(b)* more than 18 months for in-patient or day care treatment belong to (i) general practitioner fundholder practices and (ii) non-general practitioner fundholder practices. [34825]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

GP Fundholding

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each region belong to *(a)* general practitioner fundholder practices and *(b)* non-general practitioner fundholder practices. [34894]

Mr. Malone: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff, West (Mr. Morgan) on 15 March, *Official Report*, columns *579–80*, and to the

reply I gave the right hon. Member for Derby, South (Mrs. Beckett) on 24 May, *Official Report*, columns 595–96.

Nursing Posts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list by region the number of nursing posts in each specialty that have been vacant in each of the last three years. [34782]

Mr. Bowis: Information on the number and rate of nursing vacancies in the national health service is collected by the Office of Manpower Economics and is reproduced in the reports produced by the Review Body for Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine, copies of which are available in the Library.

Medicines Control Agency

Mr. Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings the Medicines Control Agency has recently held with *(a)* health food manufacturers, *(b)* consumers organisations, *(c)* pharmaceutical companies and *(d)* nutritional therapists to discuss European companies and policy on dietary supplements; and what plans he has as a result to change his Department's policy on the forthcoming European Commission consultation document on dietary supplements. [35096]

Mr. Bowis: The Medicines Control Agency has not, and does not, hold meetings with any organisations to discuss policy on dietary supplements as its regulatory responsibility is for medicinal products.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years.

Mr. Bowis *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The total expenditure on computer consultancy by the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years was:

1990–91: £10.25 million
1991–92: £12.57 million
1992–93: £13.65 million
1993–94: £13.25 million
1994–95: £14.51 million

Expenditure over the next five years will depend on future requirements and the outcome of a market-testing exercise presently being undertaken by the Department.

NHS Staff

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the total number and how much money has been expended on administrative staff, including general and senior managers and clerical and secretarial staff, in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* by district health authority, family health services authority, regional health authority, and his Department. [26285]

Mr. Malone *[holding answer 25 May 1995]:* The available information of health authorities will be placed in the Library. For the total numbers of staff for the last five years, I refer the right hon. Member to the statistical bulletins, copies of which are in the Library. For the total costs of staff for the year 1989–90, 1990–91, 1991–92 and 1992–93, I refer the right hon. Member to the health and personal social services statistics for England 1994 edition, copies of which are in the Library. The total cost of staff as requested for 1993–94—provisional—is £2,277,566,000.

Data on staff numbers for district health authorities cannot be provided for 1989 and 1990 because the aggregate figures collected for those years do not identify staff in DHA headquarters separately. The 1993 figures cannot be provided because some DHA HQs could not be disaggregated from the whole DHA figure. No data are available for 1991 or 1992 because the figures for DHAs, regional health authorities and family health services authorities cannot be disaggregated.

FHSAs were created in September 1990, replacing family practitioner committees. Since 1990, it has not been possible to identify the numbers and categories of staff employed by individual FHSAs. Details of the total number and the amount of money expended on administrative staff in my Department are provided in tables 12 and 13 of the Department's annual report, Command Paper 2812, copies of which are available in the Library.

Auditors' Remuneration

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* health authorities and *(b)* trusts have spent on auditors' remuneration in each year since 1992, by region. [34159]

Mr. Bowis *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* Information for 1993–94 is as follows:

1993–94: Auditor remuneration (£000)

Region	*Health authorities*	*NHS trusts*
Northern	1,607	1,051
Yorkshire	1,133	1,886
Trent	1,694	1,772
East Anglian	587	849
North West Thames	1,069	1,939
North East Thames	1,044	1,860
South East Thames	1,462	1,807
South West Thames	1,108	1,181
Wessex	1,149	1,062
Oxford	1,122	652
South Western	612	1,259
West Midlands	1,999	1,230
Mersey	631	1,473
North Western	1,682	1,016

Note:

1. The figure is the fee for auditing the annual accounts and returns plus value for money studies.

2. The London postgraduate teaching hospitals (SHAs) are not included in the table.

Source:

Annual accounts of regional, district and family health services authorities and summarisation schedules of NHS trusts.

Information for 1992–93 was presented on a different basis, and is therefore not comparable with 1993–94.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Cells

Mr. Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has been the cost of keeping prisoners in police cells *(a)* in each year since police cells have been used for this purpose and *(b)* in total. [34434]

Miss Widdecombe *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Jack Straw, dated 17 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the cost of keeping prisoners in police cells (a) in each year since police cells have been used for this purpose and (b) in total.

The information requested is given in the attached table.

Total costs of holding prisoners in police cells—1981–82 to 1994–95

Financial year	*£ million*
1981–82	0.002
1982–83	3.4
1983–84	10.8
1984–85	3.4
1985–86	2.2
1986–87	6.2
1987–88	24.9
1988–89	64.9
1989–90	12.4
1990–91	53.1
1991–92	94.0
1992–93	98.5
1993–94	11.0
1994–95	16.0
Total	400.802

Ms Mowlam: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what was the total cost of holding prisoners in police cells per year by police force area for each year since 1987; [33478]

(2) how many prisoner nights were spent in police cells for each year since 1987. [33479]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for these matters has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Ms Marjorie Mowlam, dated 17 July 1995.

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Questions about the number of prisoner nights spent in police cells for each year since 1987, and the total cost of holding prisoners in police cells per year by police force area for each year since 1987.

Information on the number of prisoner nights spent in police cells before 1990 is not available. Information for each year since 1990 is given in table 1.

Information on the cost of holding prisoners in police cells by police force area before 1994 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Details of costs by police force area for 1994 and the total costs of holding prisoners in police cells for the financial years 1986–87—1994–95 are given in tables 2 and 3.

Table 1: Number of prisoner nights spent in police cells 1990–1995

Year	*Number*
1990	241,835
1991	375,625
1992	351,929
1993	9,796
1994	54,277
1995[1]	34,106

[1] Up to an including 15 June.

Table 2: Total costs of holding prisoners in police cells—1986–87 to 1994–95

Financial year	*£ million*
1986–87	6.2
1987–88	24.9
1988–89	64.9
1989–90	12.4
1990–91	53.1
1991–92	94.0
1992–93	98.5
1993–94	11.0
1994–95	16.0

Tablel 3: Cost of holding prisioners in police cells by police authority–1994

Police Authority	*Cost £*
Greater Manchester	10,898,576
Merseyside	1,059,605
West Yorks	347,704
South Yorks	724,563
Humberside	232,458
Northants	9,191
Lancashire	939,767
Cumbria	13,385
Northumbria	349,517
Cheshire	38,327
Total	14,613,093

Total does not include £166,603 in respect of invoices awaiting approval.

Ms Mowlam: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the cost of holding prisoners in police cells *(a)* per night and *(b)* in total, over the last 12 months. [33477]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Ms Marjorie Mowlam, dated 17 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the cost of holding prisoners in police cells (a) per night and (b) in total, over the last 12 months, by police force area.

Currently available provisional information is given in the table attached.

Table showing average cost of holding prisoners in police cells per prisoner night and the total cost from 1 June 1994 up to, and including, 15 June 1995 by police force area

Police force area	Average cost per prisoner night £	Total cost £
Greater Manchester	277	11,807,172
South Yorkshire[2]	1,746	75,088
Lancashire	244	400,914
North Wales[2]	1,272	25,443
Merseyside	251	116,907
West Yorkshire	Figures not avaialble[1]	
Cheshire	Figures not avaialble[1]	

[1] These areas have not yet submitted any invoices.
[2] The comparatively high average cost in these areas is caused by the fact that they only hold small numbers of prisoners on a sporadic basis.

Police Compensation Payments

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid out by the Metropolitan police by way of *(a)* out of court settlements and *(b)* compensation in each year since 1984; and how much has so far been paid this year. [34647]

Mr. Maclean: The information is set out in the table.

Year	Out of Court Settlements £	Compensation £
1984	162,000	15,000
1985	194,000	14,000
1986	330,000	47,000
1987	82,000	11,000
1988	250,000	104,000
1989	267,000	232,000
1990	557,000	188,000
1991	390,000	21,000
1992	468,000	203,000
1993	1,332 000	53,000
1994	1,050,000	84,000
1995[1]	426,000	50,000

Notes:
[1] 1995 figure to 30 June.

Mary Druhan

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to complete his review of the case of Mary Druhan of HM prison, New Hall; and if he will make a statement. [34512]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Representations submitted by Justice that Mary Druhan was wrongfully convicted are still under consideration and the Metropolitan police are making inquiries into a number of matters in them. When their report is received, the review of Mary Druhan's case will be concluded as speedily as possible.

Ministerial Meetings (Police Representatives)

Mr. Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the last three dates on which he met *(a)* representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers and *(b)* representatives of local police authorities, excluding in each case meetings chaired by Home Office officials. [34389]

Mr. Maclean: My right hon. and learned Friend met representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers on 6 June, 29 June and 5 July 1995 and representatives of local police authorities on 17 February, 8 June and 5 July 1995.

Stalking

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date he hopes to publish the results of his Department's review of the law on stalking. [34797]

Mr. Maclean: We are looking at the anti-stalking laws of the United States and Canada to see if there are any lessons to be learnt from them.

We are presently awaiting further details from these countries and therefore I cannot say when this examination is likely to be completed. We shall consider whether there is a need for a formal review of our legislation in the light of this examination and the examination of other evidence which has been provided to us by the national anti-stalking and harassment campaign among others.

Child Witnesses

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures his Department intends to take to reduce the trauma experienced by child witnesses in court following the findings of the Leicester university research into the effectiveness of the special provisions for child witnesses contained in the Criminal Justice Act 1991; and if he will make a statement. [34796]

Mr. Maclean: We are considering the findings of the report, and in particular whether the memorandum of good practice on video-recorded interviews with child witnesses should be revised to take account of them.

IRA Prisoners (Visitors)

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what new restrictions concerning visiting rights have been imposed on IRA prisoners in Her Majesty's prisons in Britain; what representations he has received concerning such restrictions; and if he will make a statement; [33946]

(2) how many republican prisoners in Her Majesty's prisons have had visiting rights removed; if visiting by legal advisers and consular visits are included; how many category A prisoners, including republican prisoners, now have closed visits; and if he will make a statement. [33944]

Miss Widdecombe *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* Responsibility for these matters has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Max Madden, dated 17 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Questions about visiting arrangements for IRA prisoners.

No Republican prisoners have had visiting rights removed. A policy of closed visits for all exceptional risk category A prisoners was introduced on 19 June. There are currently 13 such prisoners, 8 of whom are Irish terrorists. There are a further 27 category A Irish terrorists not classified as exceptional risk who are therefore unaffected by this policy. Representations or inquiries have been received from a firm of solicitors, a member of the Irish Parliament, the Irish embassy and a member of the United Kingdom Parliament. The policy applies to all visits including legal and consular visits.

St. Charles' Centre, Brentwood

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effects he expects the closure of St. Charles' centre, Brentwood, to have on the prison population. [33811]

Miss Widdecombe *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mrs. Barbara Roche, dated 17 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about what effects he expects the closure of St Charles Centre, Brentwood to have on the prison population.

There will be no measurable effect on the prison population as a result of the closure of St Charles. The Home Office has placed no newly sentenced detainees at St Charles for the past twelve months and none of the existing occupants will be transferred to Young Offender Institutions.

Remand Prisoners

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people, by Crown court circuit region, are on remand in custody awaiting trial in the Crown court. [34806]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Stephen Byers, dated 17 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question asking how many people, by Crown Court circuit region, are on remand in custody awaiting trial in the Crown Court.

The available information shows that there were 4,224 untried prisoners in Prison Service establishments on 31 May 1995 in England and Wales who were committed for, or were in the course of, trial at the Crown Court. A breakdown by Crown Court circuit region is not available.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the average period of time for which a person has been held on remand in custody in prisons in England and Wales during the last 12 months. [34349]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 17 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question asking what is the average period of time for which a person has been held on remand in custody in prisons in England and Wales during the last 12 months.

The information requested is given in the attached table.

Estimated average time spent in custody for untried and convicted unsentenced prisoners, in Prison Service establishments in England and Wales, June 1994–May 1995[1]

Type of custody	*Receptions June 1994–May 1995*	*Estimated average number of days in custody*[4]
Untried[2]	55,802	59
Convicted unsentenced[3]	29,191	39

[1] Provisional figures.
[2] Time spent in custody before conviction.
[3] Time spent in custody after conviction before sentence.
[4] Estimated from number of receptions and average population in 1994–95.

Assaults on Police

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been stabbed in the course of their duties by a person carrying a knife in the period from 1 January to 30 June within the Greater London area. [34763]

Mr. Maclean: I understand from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis that during the period 1 January to 31 May 10 Metropolitan police officers suffered injury as the result of an attack with a sharp instrument. Figures for the period after 31 May are not yet available.

Prison Boards of Visitors

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are members of boards of visitors at prisons in England and Wales. [34765]

Miss Widdecombe: There are 923 men and 785 women who are members of boards of visitors at prisons in England and Wales.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women of an ethnic minority background who are members of boards of visitors at prisons in England and Wales as at 1 July. [34345]

Miss Widdecombe: As at 1 July there were 83 men and 45 women of an ethnic minority background who were members of boards of visitors at prisons in England and Wales.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what will be the involvement of the Deputy Prime Minister in the work of his Department. [34034]

Mr. Howard: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Prime Minister in reply to a question from the hon. Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger) on 11 July, *Official Report*, column *496–97*.

Exclusion Orders

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many exclusion orders have been issued in each month of 1995. [34019]

Mr. Howard: Three exclusion orders have been made so far this year; one in each of the months of January, May and June. Each was made on the expiry of an existing exclusion order. During the same period 20 orders have been revoked or allowed to expire; no order has been made against persons who were not previously excluded.

Remission of Sentence

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what decision he has taken on the harmonisation of rates of remission on prison sentences between England, Wales and Northern Ireland. [34020]

Mr. Howard: There are no plans to change the present arrangements for the early release of prisoners in England and Wales. Arrangements for the early release of prisoners in Northern Ireland are a matter for my right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Prison Nurses

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what control and restraint training is given to nurses working in prisons in England and Wales. [34081]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 17 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your Question about what control and restraint training is given to nurses working in prisons in England and Wales.

The policy is that all new entrant nurses should receive initial control and restraint training at their prison establishment during the first weeks of their induction programme into the Prison Service. In addition, provision exists for centrally organised training in the security/control elements of prison nursing at the Prison Service College. The training is to the same standard as that applied to new entrant prison officers. Since February 1993, when the training policy came into effect, 296 nurses have completed the course and a further 75 are due to be trained by April 1996.

Immigration Detainees

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were held as suspected illegal immigrants or deportees in police cells in the Metropolitan police district between 1 January and 30 June *(a)* for up to 24 hours, *(b)* for between 24 hours and seven days, and *(c)* for over seven days. [33997]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has been achieved, in terms of projects and cash, by the private finance initiative in the past year. [34023]

Mr. Howard: In the past year a range of projects has been taken forward. The present position on projects which are being developed, or are strong candidates, for funding through private finance, is as follows:

Project	*Achievement to date*
Design, Build, Manage and Finance prisons at Fazakerley and Bridgend	Tenders assessed. Contracts to be let shortly
Design, Build, Manage and Finance Secure Training Centres for Young Offenders: Gringley and Cookham Wood	Tenders being assessed
Design, Build, Manage and Finance three further Secure Training Centres	Invitation to tender in preparation
Police National Network	Contract in place
Public Safety Radio Communications Project	In design
Central development of IT projects for police forces	In design
Immigration Detention Accommodation:	
Gatwick	In construction
Heathrow	In design
Immigration and Nationality Caseworking Management Information System	In design

The capital value of these schemes is estimated at £1.2 billion.

Corporate Manslaughter

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration has been given to the implications of the recent case in Hong Kong involving Ajax Engineers and Surveyors for the law covering corporate manslaughter in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [34304]

Mr. Maclean: The Law Commission is currently examining the law on involuntary manslaughter, including corporate manslaughter. We will consider the implications of this case together with the commission's recommendations when it produces a report.

Libyan Bureau

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he was consulted by the appropriate overseas Government about the use of a property adjacent to the Libyan Bureau at 5 St. James's street by an intelligence organisation in 1984, details of which have been sent to him, and if he will make a statement. [33971]

Mr. Howard: I am unable to add anything to the exchange of correspondence between my hon. Friend the Member for Southend, East (Sir T. Taylor) and my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Grantham (Mr. Hogg) on the circumstances surrounding the death of WPC Fletcher.

Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the last five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33414]

Mr. Howard: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 1 May, *Official Report*, column *93*. The information is not readily available.

Public Interest Immunity

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the names of the deceased in all cases of deaths in custody since 1987 in which public interest immunity was authorised; who authorised it; and for what reason. [33343]

Miss Widdecombe: The information requested, which relates to deaths in police custody as well as Prison Service custody, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, in relation to prison custody, inquiries show that from 1992 to the present there was one occasion when a public interest immunity certificate was signed in connection with a death in prison custody. This was in connection with a prosecution for the murder of a prisoner where a certificate was signed by the Home Secretary in connection with certain security-sensitive material.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who authorised the public interest immunity in the case of Mr. Omasese Lumumba; and if he will make a statement. [33342]

Miss Widdecombe: So far as I am aware, no claim for public interest immunity was made in this case.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department by *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33441]

Mr. Howard: Information on contracts that my Department has let to consultants in general for the period specified is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. I am, however, able to provide information for contracts let to management consultants during the last two financial years. Information prior to 1993–94 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The five management consultancy firms that have received most contracts from my Department during the previous two financial years are as follows:

1993–94

Coopers and Lybrand (x5) = 1st

PA Consulting (x5) = 1st

Price Waterhouse (x5) = 1st

L. Massey (x3) = 2nd

Vector Corporate Directions Limited (x3) = 2nd

1994–95

Coopers and Lybrand (x6) = 1st

Sema Group (x6) = 1st

Price Waterhouse (x4) = 2nd

Ernst and Young (x3) = 3rd

KPMG (x3) = 3rd

PA Consulting (x3) = 3rd

Information on the five management consultancies that have received the most contracts from my Department in monetary value for 1993–94 is not readily available, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The information for 1994–95, in monetary value order, is as follows:

1994–95

1. Sema Group
2. Coopers and Lybrand
3. Lazard Brothers
4. Price Waterhouse
5. Ernst and Young

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33567]

Mr. Howard: Information on contracts that my Department has let to consultants in general for the period specified is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. I am, however, able to provide the number of contracts let to management consultancies, including the overall cost, during 1994–95. For information prior to 1994–95 I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Mr. Wardle) on 23 March 1994, *Official Report*, column *223*. The information for 1994–95 is as follows:

> During the 1994–95 financial year the Home Office let 72 contracts to management consultants at a total cost of £2,686,343.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries, and *(i)* Pannell and Kerr Foster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33914]

Mr. Howard: For the period specified, information on the number of contracts let to each listed company for the specified consultancies and the total sum paid to each company by my Department is as follows:

1994–95

Consultant	Privatisation	Market testing	Management advice	Accounting	Audit	Consultancy	Other services	Total sum
Coopers and Lybrand and Subsidiaries	—	—	1	—	—	4	2	£392,763
Peat Marwick and Subsidiaries	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	£62,102
Ernst and Young and Subsidiaries	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	£170,178
Arthur Andersen and Subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Price Waterhouse and Subsidiaries	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	£265,000
Grant Thornton and Subsidiaries	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	[1]
Stoy Hayward and Subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robson Rhodes and Subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pannell Kerr Foster and Subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Individual contract values are not given on the grounds of commercial confidentiality.

1993–94

Consultant	Privatisation	Market testing	Management advice	Accounting	Audit	Consultancy	Other services	Total sum
Coopers and Lybrand and subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	£170,000
Peat Marwick and subsidiaries	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	£142,500
Ernst and Young and subsidiaries	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	£103,837
Arthur Andersen and subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Price Waterhouse and subsidiaries	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	£329,071
Grant Thornton and subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stoy Hayward and subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robson Rhodes and subsidiaries	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	£20,610
Pannell Kerr Foster and subsidiaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prisoner Transfers

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement about his intentions for the movement of Northern Irish prisoners, currently held in prisons in Great Britain, to prisons in Northern Ireland. [33024]

Mr. Howard: The Criminal Justice Act 1961 provides for prisoners to request either permanent or temporary transfer from one United Kingdom jurisdiction to another. Requests for transfer continue to be considered on their individual merits under criteria announced to the House on 23 November 1992.

NATIONAL HERITAGE

Privacy and Media Intrusion

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage when she will publish the Government's paper on privacy. [34066]

Mr. Sproat: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State published the Government's response to the National Heritage Committee's report on privacy and media intrusion today.

Millennium Fund

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) who will be deciding which of the long-listed projects for millennium funding should be short-listed; and what criteria they will be using; [34495]

(2) what criteria were used to identify millennium fund projects as viably not proven or not sufficiently distinctive; who decided those criteria; and who decided that the long-listed projects should be long-listed; [34497]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 3 July, *Official Report*, column 22, in which parliamentary constituencies the projects which have gone forward to the detailed appraisal stage for millennium funding are situated; [34536]

(4) when she expects to complete appraisal of the long-listed projects for millennium funding; and when she expects to announce all of the successful projects. [34496]

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: These are matters for the Millennium Commission. I shall reply to the hon. Member in my capacity as chairman of the commission and place copies of my replies in the Libraries of the House.

Export Licences

Mr. Faulds: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will list the items for which the issuing of export licences was withheld on the recommendation of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art during the half-year ended 30 June, specifying in each case the valuation, whether an item was *(a)* exported or *(b)* retained, listing for *(c)* the acquiring institutions; and if she will list those items for which licences have been withheld but the final disposal of which has not yet been decided, specifying in each case (i) the valuation and (ii) the relevant time limit. [34221]

Mr. Sproat: The information is as follows:

Description of item	*Valuation (£)*	*Outcome*
A painting, 'A repentant Sinner turning away from Temptation', by Johann Liss, circa 1597—circa 1630)	1,007,512.50	Export licence application withdrawn.
A painting, 'The Holy Family', by Giulio Romano, circa 1490–1546	1,720,320	Decision deferred until after 20 July 1995.
A George III giltwood table designed by William Chambers, circa 1774–75	95,160	Acquired by The Courtauld Institute Galleries.
An Egyptian temple lintel of the late 12th Dynasty	109,042.50	Acquired by the British Museum.
A George II open armchair, circa 1727	325,000	Decision deferred until after 30 July 1995.
A pair of George II walnut side chairs, circa 1731	446,363	Decision deferred until after 30 July 1995.
A pair of George II open armchairs, 1740	202,912.50	Decision deferred until after 30 July 1995.
A sculpture, 'Figure of a Huntress', by Richard James Wyatt, mid 19th century	68,812.50	Export licence granted.
A George I bowl and cover, either a soup tureen or a christening bowl, 1725	113,512.50	Export licence granted.
A painting, 'Judith with the Head of Holofernes' by Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1530	314,662.50	Decision deferred until after 9 August 1995.
A full dress or mantua of ivory silk damask, circa 1755	78,826	Decision deferred until after 16 August 1995.
The Coronation Bible of George III circa 1761	350,000	Decision deferred until after 13 September 1995.

Works of Art in Lieu of Inheritance Tax

Mr. Faulds: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will list the allocations made to public institutions in the United Kingdom during the half-year ended 30 June of individual works of art and museum objects pre-eminent for national, scientific, historic or artistic interest which have been accepted in satisfaction of inheritance tax, indicating, where applicable, the conditions and wishes expressed by testators or executors in the matter of allocation; and if she will list the works of art and museum objects which are still awaiting allocation, with the respective dates of their acceptance in satisfaction of inheritance tax. [34220]

Mr. Sproat: The information that the hon. Member requested is as follows:

Item	*To whom allocated*	*Condition/wishes*
'Stonehenge' Watercolour by Turner	Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum	Conditional
Chattels at Calke Abbey	National Trust	Conditional
Reference books relating to the Godman collection of Islamic Art	British Museum	Conditional
Six sculptures by Naum Gabo	Tate Gallery	Conditional
Silver Gilt Wine Fountain by de Lamerie	National Trust	Conditional
Paintings by Chagall and Magritte	Castle Museum, Norwich	Conditional
Paintings by Steen, van Ruisdael and Berchem	Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, on permanent loan	Conditional
Chattels at Nymans House	National Trust	Conditional

Unallocated items	*Date accepted*
Painting by Francis Bacon	25 April 1995
Roundel by Foggini	25 April 1995

Amsterdam (Wreck Site)

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what assessment she has made as to whether the Protection of Wrecks (Designation No. 3) Order 1974 in respect of the site of the vessel Amsterdam is being adequately enforced. [33335]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The Amsterdam is inspected as part of a rolling programme of regular monitoring of designated wreck sites by the archaeological diving unit under contract to the Department of National Heritage. The ADU plans to visit the site next month. Following its previous visit in 1991, it concluded that there was no evidence to suggest unauthorised interference.

Rollerblading

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many accidents she is aware of that have been attributed to the sport of rollerblading in the latest available period. [34122]

Mr. Sproat: I am aware of only one fatal accident, which occurred last week in Hyde park.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what proposals she has to introduce controls over the sporting activity of rollerblading. [34124]

Mr. Sproat: The Government have no plans to introduce national controls on in-line skating. Local authorities in England and Wales are able to make byelaws to prohibit or regulate the use of roller skates and similar equipment in parks and open spaces and on footways and carriageways. My right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary is the confirming authority for such byelaws. In the royal parks, the agency has regulations prohibiting irresponsible and reckless behaviour by any park user.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Disability

43. **Mr. Rowe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the grants given by his Department as overseas development aid to assist in the treatment and rehabilitation of disability. [32798]

Mr. Hanley: In 1994–95, we made grants of £985,000 through the joint funding scheme in support of 52 projects directly concerned with disabled people. In addition, providing assistance to people with disabilities forms an integral part of many of our programmes concerned with improving the health of poor people in developing countries.

Animal Conservation (Africa)

44. **Mr. Tony Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on animal conservation schemes in Africa in the current financial year. [32799]

Mr. Hanley: We plan to spend over £4 million in this financial year to help countries in Africa conserve and manage their wildlife resources more effectively.

Aid Budget

45. **Mr. Barnes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of gross domestic product has been allocated to overseas aid in the currently financial year. [32800]

Mr. Hanley: International comparison of aid flow figures are normally presented in relation to gross national product on a calendar year basis. In 1994, the latest year for which figures are available, UK net official development assistance was 0.31 per cent. of GNP.

Overseas Students

46. **Mr. Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's expenditure for the last 12 months for which data are available was spent on providing further and higher education in the United Kingdom for overseas nationals; and if he will make a statement. [32801]

Mr. Hanley: In the financial year 1994–95, the FCO spent £95 million on the provision of further and higher education in the United Kingdom for overseas nationals. This represented 2.6 per cent. of the total FCO budget of some £3.6 billion and supported nearly 13,000 students. The figures do not include various other training attachments for which figures are not centrally held.

Trade Union Movement

47. **Mr. MacShane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he is giving the independent trade union movement in *(a)* Indonesia and *(b)* China. [32802]

Mr. Hanley: The British Government are not giving any assistance to the independent trade union movement in China or Indonesia.

Sudan

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement about humanitarian assistance to Sudan. [32795]

Mr. Hanley: Britain is a major donor of humanitarian aid to Sudan. Since January 1991, we have provided over £92 million in emergency assistance, including about 140,000 tonnes of food aid and our share of EU actions.

United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has of the total value of the donations given by the UNFPA to population policies and organisations in China since 1979. [32007]

Mr. Hanley: The UNFPA has allocated US$152.453 million since 1979 for its activities in China.

Non-governmental Organisations (Grants)

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the amount of funding given by his Department to each non-governmental organisation, other than under the joint funding scheme or for emergencies, in each of the financial years 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 to date. [34146]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* Details of funds given to non-governmental organisations other than under the joint funding scheme or for emergencies in 1993–94 are shown in the table.

Figures for 1994–95 and 1995–96 to date are not yet available.

ODA grants to NGOs 1993–94, excluding JFS and emergencies

Agency	*Total*
ACORD	70,001
ActionAid	308,151
Action Around Bethlehem	21,980
Afghanaid	117,074
Aga Khan Foundation	1,077,934
AHRTAG	49,157
AMREF	82,230
Assoc Commonwealth Universities	2,488,268
Assoc Science Education	70
BESO	908,370
British Red Cross	8,147
British Trust for Ornithology	1,852
Business in the Community	2,312
CAFOD	1,979
Calcutta Tercentenary Trust	10,000
Canon Collins Ed Trust for South Africa	48,591
Canterbury Christchurch	66,731
CARE Britain	1,308,146
Charities Aid Foundation	418,053
Charities Evaluation Services	2,120

ODA grants to NGOs 1993–94, excluding JFS and emergencies

Agency	Total
Childhope	10,000
Christian Aid	134,951
Christians Abroad	163,841
CIIR	1,700,001
CONCERN	141,415
Consumer Research Laboratory	24,123
Cooperation for Development	83,600
Cranfield Institute for Technology	72,383
Disability Resource Team	59
Earthwatch Europe	15,000
Education for Development	20,377
Education Partners Overseas	51,253
Enterprise Europe	8,169
Family Planning Association	275
FARM Africa	533,319
Fauna and Flora Preservation Society	6,000
Feed The Children	5,000
FORUM	10,000
Freshwater Biological Association	250
Gurkha Welfare Trust	162,598
Health Unlimited	14,400
IBRA	1,393
Institute of Animal Health	35,435
Institute of Data Processing Management	27
Scottish Education Action for Development	30,002
Scottish Natural Heritage	39,905
Scottish Vocational Education Council	30,090
Silsoe Research Institute	648,260
Skillshare Africa	1,315,000
Society General Microbiology	7,000
SOS Sahel	212,504
TACADE	9,968
Thomson Foundation	167,391
Traidcraft Exchange	261,034
Tropical Soil Bio Fert Programme	30,001
UNAIS	842,797
University of Aberdeen	68,415
University of Edinburgh	122,985
University of Glasgow	62,500
University of Strathclyde	79,710
University of West of England	32,812
Urban Aid	46,500
VSO	16,607,347
Water Aid	195,017
World Conservation Monitoring	80,279
World Conservation Union	108,098
World University Service	377,656
World Vision	178,723
World Wide Fund for Nature	81,539
YES International	75,000
Young Enterprise	7,800
Y-Care International	50,000
Total	62,609,954

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the amount of funding for emergencies given by his Department to each non-governmental organisation in each of the financial years 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 to date. [34147]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* Details of emergency aid grants to non-governmental organisations for 1993–94 are shown in the chart. Audited figures for 1994–95 and 1995–96 to date are not yet available.

ODA emergency aid channelled through non-governmental organisations, 1993–94

Agency	Disaster relief	Refugee relief	Food aid	Total emergency aid
ACORD	424,000	615,000	0	1,039,000
Action Aid	1,126,830	0	108,033	1,234,863
Afghanaid	0	669,355	0	669,355
British Red Cross	6,337,773	6,127,992	0	12,465,765
British Refugee Council	0	10,000	0	10,000
CAFOD	703,605	19,750	984,044	1,707,399
Care Britain	2,630,866	0	4,344,958	6,975,824
Children in Crisis	100,000	0	0	100,000
Christian Aid	2,359,787	135,000	4,742,937	7,237,724
Christian Childrens Fund	40,000	0	0	40,000
Christian Outreach	461,011	221,000	0	682,011
Concern	849,462	0	0	849,462
Concern Universal	0	88,000	0	88,000
Concern Worldwide	270,000	0	0	270,000
Co-op for Development	88,000	0	0	88,000
Cranfield Institute of Technology	11,179	0	0	11,179
Emergency Logistic Practical Aid	64,700	0	0	64,700
Feed the Children	300,405	0	0	300,405
Food for the Hungry	851,135	0	0	851,135
Goal	403,356	0	0	403,356
Halo Trust	681,958	0	0	681,958
Health Unlimited	288,725	100,000	0	388,725
Help the Aged	0	100,000	0	100,000
Helpage International	38,670	92,000	51,690	182,360
Intercare	110,000	0	0	110,000
Intermediate Technology Development	197,820	0	0	197,820
International Extension College	0	100,000	0	100,000
International Health Exchange	118,640	0	0	118,640
International Refugee Trust	0	20,000	0	20,000
Iraqi Civilian	156,000	0	0	156,000
Joint Mission Hospital Equipment Board	37,875	0	0	37,875
Kurdish Life Aid	80,000	0	0	80,000
Medecins Sans Frontieres	627,779	0	0	627,779
Medical Aid for Iraq	100,000	0	0	100,000

ODA emergency aid channelled through non-governmental organisations, 1993–94

Agency	*Disaster relief*	*Refugee relief*	*Food aid*	*Total emergency aid*
Medical aid for Palestinians	114,074	63,500	0	177,574
Medical Emergency Relief International	427,140	0	0	427,140
Mines Advisory Group	50,625	0	0	50,625
MSI	267,725	83,565	0	351,290
Ockenden Venture	65,397	224,950	0	290,347
ODI	25,144	0	0	25,144
Order of St. John	0	48,100	0	48,100
Oxfam	4,365,983	175,000	1,182,941	5,723,924
REDR	45,300	0	0	45,300
Ryder-Cheshire Foundation	0	91,000	0	91,000
Sandy Gall Afghan Appeal	12,300	0	0	12,300
Save the Children Fund	6,232,667	216,500	3,091,408	9,540,575
SCIAF	93,585	0	0	93,585
Scottish European Aid	5,000	0	0	5,000
Task Force Albania	18,000	0	0	18,000
Tear Fund	141,972	0	0	141,972
UK Committee for UNICEF	6,923,848	0	0	6,923,848
UKJAID	68,270	0	0	68,270
Warchild	111,000	0	0	111,000
Water Aid	29,342	0	0	29,342
World University Service	0	120,000	0	120,000
World Vision	1,224,272	0	1,336,693	2,560,965
Y-Care International	29,938	143,750	0	173,688
Total	39,711,158	9,464,462	15,842,704	65,018,324

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the amounts granted to United Kingdom non-governmental organisations by the European Union in the last three years for which figures are available *(a)* for projects in developing countries, *(b)* for development education and *(c)* for other projects. [34149]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* UK NGOs are eligible for funding under a variety of budget lines within the external chapter of the EC budget. Details of activities under these budget lines are provided in the Commission's annual report on co-operation with NGOs, which is deposited in Parliament and on which an explanatory memorandum is provided. Apart from the main co-financing line—B7-5010—the most significant budget lines are those for humanitarian and food aid.

Available figures on grants to UK NGOs are set out in the table. These exclude grants of food aid to UK NGOs and also grants for activities in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Category of grant	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
(a) Projects in developing countries under budget line B7-5010	16.72 mecu (£14.08 million[1])	18.01 mecu (£15.16 million)	20.89 mecu (£17.59 million)
(b) Development education under budget line B7-5010	1.89 mecu (£1.59 million)	2.05 mecu (£1.73 million)	1.92 mecu (£1.62 million)
(c) EC humanitarian aid	n/a	18.76 mecu (£15.80 million)	32.85 mecu (£27.66 million)

[1] At July 1995 exchange rate £1 = 1.1877 ecu.

n/a = not available.

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the amount of Overseas Development Administration joint funding scheme grant given to each non-governmental organisation, in each of the financial years 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 to date. [34148]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* Details of the joint funding scheme grants given to non-governmental organisations in each of the financial years 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 to date are shown in the tables.

JFS grants 1993–94

Agency	*1993–94*
ACORD	616,222
ActionAid	1,013,578
Action Health 2000	44,247
ADD	234,190
Africa Now	69,159
Africa Resources Trust	88,076
Aga Khan Foundation	124,130
AHRTAG	321,250
Alternative for India Development	56,463
AMREF	27,652
APTT—Trust UK	5,426
Associated Country Women of the World	2,990
Birdlife International	109,865
Britain-Nepal Medical Trust	20,145
British Red Cross	128,110
Busoga Trust	50,000
CAFOD	1,650,000
Cambodia Trust	234,360
CARE Britain	1,594,706
Care for the Wild (UK)	100,000
Childhope	95,918
Christian Aid	2,689,999
Christian Outreach	60,566
CODA International Training	197,252
Commonwealth Human Ecology Council	62,562
CTUC	112,830
Concern Worldwide	1,127,769
Conservation Foundation	16,879

JFS grants 1993–94

Agency	*1993–94*
Cooperation for Development	150,000
Cusichaca Project Trust	24,478
Duke of Edinburgh Award	22,935
Durham Lesotho Link	53,249
Feed the Minds	29,627
Find your Feet	26,961
Food for the Hungry	17,570
Friends of ASSEFA	40,561
Friends of Conservation	47,207
Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala	9,532
Gaia Foundation	981
Gordon Barclay Vietnam Fund	9,266
Halo Trust	523,151
Health Aid Moyo	99,320
Health Unlimited	419,568
Hedley Roberts Trust	17,573
Help the Aged	37,269
HelpAge International	205,048
Henry Doubleday Research Association	10,959
Holy Trinity Church	29,650
Ideas Aid International	20,000
India Development Group	60,325
Intercare	40,895
Intermediate Technology Development	556,323
International Christian Relief	99,832
King Mahendra	32, 013
Leonard Cheshire Foundation	37,050
Leprosy Mission	11,142
Living Earth	147,575
Medical Aid for Palestinians	55,106
Money for Madagascar	12,955
Motivation	44,308
MSI	870,719
Nairobi Hospice Charitable Trust	40,600
NCH	14,515
Ockenden Adventure	26,865
Opportunity Trust	50,627
OXFAM	5,500,000
Plan International	579,577
Population Concern	339,716
Richmond Fellowship International	26,924
Rio Mazan	13,353
Royal Commonwealth Society	172,939
Ryder-Cheshire Foundation	6,359
Save the Children Fund	3,760,000
SCIAF	102,243
Send a Cow	41,259
Sid Vale Africa Link	3,174
Skillshare Africa	222,550
SOS Sahel	225,430
South African Townships	60,000
Southeast Asian Outreach	45,000
St. John Ambulance	10,902
Tear Fund	83,639
Toch-H	10,376
Traidcraft Exchange	88,181
Trax Programme Support	16,447
Tropical Health and Education Trust	23,208
TUIREG	15,034
Uganda Society for Disabled Children	160,055
UKFSP	174,944
UKJAID	68,500
University of Warwick	29,450
Urban Aid	36,603
VetAid	86,265
Village Services Trust	8,950
Vision Aid Overseas	25,799
VSO	80,000
War on Want	116,533
WaterAid	847,942
Womankind	121,847
World University Service	155,091
World Vision	362,147
WWF	1,735,000
Youth with a Mission	45,252
Y-Care International	80,968
Zimbabwe Trust	262,790
Zoological Society of London	26,000
Total	30,520,546

JFS grants 1994–95

Agency	*1994–95*
ACORD	778,312
Action Health 2000	51,382
ActionAid	1,216,346
ADD	137,290
Africa Now	147,691
Africa Resources Trust	100,000
African Soc of International and Comparative Law	23,750
Aga Khan Foundation	254,471
AHRTAG	392,487
AMREF	73,122
APT Design and Development	220,068
APTT	7,836
Associated Country Women of the World	13,891
Association for Better Land Husbandry	152,684
Birdlife International	165,425
Britain-Nepal Medical Trust	90,414
British Red Cross	105,820
Busoga Trust	98,715
CAFOD	2,010,000
Calcutta Rescue Fund	1,737
Cambodia Trust	79,134
CARE	1,479,791
Care for the Wild (UK)	50,000
CHEC	58,762
Childhope	100,930
Christian Aid	3,330,000
Christian Engineers in Development	24,690
Christian Outreach	99,368
Church Missionary Society	20,902
CODA International Training	178,960
CONCERN	916,972
Concern Universal	197,213
Conservation Foundation	9,189
Cooperation for Development	166,165
CTUC	113,492
Cusichaca Trust	23,668
Durham Lesotho Link	20,913
Feed the Minds	23,686
Find your Feet	9,100
Food for the Hungry	19,850
Friends of ASSEFA	38,197
Friends of Conservation	27,468
Friends of Urambo and Mwanhala	8,626
Gordon Barclay Vietnam Fund	7,663
Harvest Help	30,439
Health Projects Abroad	49,724
Health Unlimited	537,803
Hedley Roberts Trust	2,804
HelpAge	298,148
Holy Trinity Church	13,000
Homeless International	168,162
IATP	68,400
ICEA	7,902
Ideas Aid International	20,000
Impact	25,355
India Development Group	85,750
Interfund	84,669
International Children's Trust	67,897
International Christian Relief	54,166
International Cooperation for Development	124,813

JFS grants 1994–95

Agency	*1994–95*
Islamic Relief	59,946
ITDG	592,958
Kerala Federation for the Blind	6,072
King Mahendra Trust	78,368
Lasallian Developing World Projects	7,504
Legal Assistance Trust	60,000
Leonard Cheshire Foundation	55,012
Leprosy Mission	9,988
Leprosy Mission (Scotland)	23,760
Living Earth	169,595
Medical Aid for Palestinians	80,525
Money for Madagascar	10,625
MSI	964,982
Nairobi Hospice Charitable Trust	35,820
NCH	9,400
New Hope Rural Community Trust	2,955
One World Action	40,225
Opportunity Trust	78,453
Overseas Records Management Trust	99,634
OXFAM	6,000,000
Panos Institute	32,790
Pattaya Orphanage Trust	18,110
Plan	938,864
Population Concern	378,936
Project Ploughshare	39,999
Richmond Fellowship	6,640
Rio Mazan	14,742
Save the Children Fund	4,470,000
SCIAF	158,400
Send a Cow	29,300
Sid Vale Africa Link	1,415
Sightsavers	186,576
Skillshare Africa	207,335
SOS Sahel	264,770
South African Townships	66,000
Southeast Asian Outreach	84,959
Tear Fund	149,487
Traidcraft Exchange	56,000
Trax Programme Support	27,579
Tropical Health and Education Trust	64,948
UKFSP	200,963
University of Warwick	9,100
USDC	104,703
VetAid	85,739
Village Services Trust	10,870
Vision Aid Overseas	27,737
VSO	80,000
War on Want	70,584
WaterAid	884,809
Wells for India	21,592
Womankind	57,799
WomenAid	9,580
World University Service	150,346
World Vision	354,701
WWF	2,040,000
YES International	25,025
Youth with a Mission	17,140
Y-Care	150,968
Zimbabwe Trust	61,600
Zoological Society of London	32,000
Total	34,663,140

JFS grants paid to date: 1995–96

Agency	*1995–96*
Action Health 2000	5,783
ActionAid	86,715
Africa Now	40,877
African Soc of International and Comparative Law	4,398
Aga Khan Foundation	81,089

JFS grants paid to date: 1995–96

Agency	*1995–96*
Alternative for India	47,124
AMREF	25,650
APT Design and Development	36,589
Associated Country Women of the World	4,356
Association for Better Land Husbandry	63,900
Birdlife International	4,762
Britain-Nepal Medical Trust	24,270
Busoga Trust	67,500
CAFOD	622,000
CARE	573,066
CHEC	16,883
Christian Engineers in Development	5,909
Christian Outreach	50,802
CODA International Training	134,900
Cooperation for Development	90,863
CTUC	12,535
Friends of Conservation	26,877
Harvest Help	18,080
Health Unlimited	231,923
IATP	3,620
India Development Group	4,357
International Family Health	17,636
ITDG	76,200
Leonard Cheshire Foundation	24,982
Motivation	54,758
MSI	92,363
New Hope Rural Community Trust	1,145
Overseas Records Management Trust	41,384
OXFAM	1,287,500
Population Concern	269,358
Save the Children Fund	1,122,500
Send a Cow	4,444
Skillshare Africa	74,893
TUIREG	12,429
UKFSP	48,575
VSO	21,511
War on Want	14,822
Wells for India	4,930
World University Service	25,363
World Vision	69,276
WWF	429,250
Youth with a Mission	2,226
Y-Care	1[illegible]446
Total	3,812,914

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit third world countries during the recess to discuss trade related to aid; and if he will make a statement. [33087]

Mr. Hanley: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans at present to undertake such visits.

The overarching goal of the aid programme is to reduce poverty in developing countries by promoting genuinely sustainable development. It is in all our interests to have prosperous and stable trading partners.

Women (Status)

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the United Kingdom aid budget is spent on promoting the status of women. [32796]

Mr. Hanley: In 1993–94 12.7 per cent. of the aid budget was spent on activities related to promoting women's status. This compares with 7.5 per cent. in the previous year.

East Timor

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, columns *113–14*, at what place the local training courses for officials from Government departments in East Timor were conducted; and who was engaged to carry out the training. [34311]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The training took place in Dili. It was carried out by a team of Indonesian officials from departments which were concerned with land use planning, and a member of a provincial university. A UK trainer from the Natural Resources Institute supported the team.

Indonesia

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when his Department received a formal request from DTI to appraise his radio studios rehabilitation project in Indonesia; on what date his Department completed its appraisal of the project; whom his Department engaged to appraise the project; on what dates visits were made to the radio studios for the purposes of the appraisal and by whom the visits were made; at the time of the economic appraisal; what were (i) the "present value" of the benefits and (ii) the "present value" of the costs of the project; how the actual costs and benefits compared with those foreseen at the time of appraisal; what view his Department takes of the record in relation to freedom of expression of *(a)* the department responsible for the project, and *(b)* the project beneficiary; what factors were taken into account in assessing whether the project represented value for money; on what date the Treasury gave its consent to the project; on what date the project was approved by the sub-committee for aid and trade; on what date the project was approved by the Minister; what considerations caused his Department to separate the project from the Bandung TV studio project; what was (1) the approved cash cost and (2) the actual cost of the project; in what respect and to what extent the project benefited the poorest people in Indonesia; and what were (x) the projected completion date and (y) the actual completion date of the project; [34709]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 15 June, *Official Report*, column *631*, in respect of the shortwave radio transmitters project in Indonesia, at what locations the high frequency transmitters were installed and if they included locations in East Timor; which Indonesian companies were involved; on what date his Department received from the DTI a formal request to appraise the project; on what dates site visits were made for the purposes of the appraisal; what sites were visited and by whom the visits were made; at the time of the economic appraisal, what were *(a)* the present value of the costs and *(b)* the present value of the benefits of the project and how the actual costs and benefits compared with those foreseen at the time of appraisal; if his Department carried out institutional appraisals in respect of (i) the Department responsible for the project and (ii) the project beneficiary, and what were the outcomes of those appraisals; what factors were taken into account in assessing whether the project represented value for money; on what date the Treasury gave its consent to the project; in what respect and to what extent the project benefits the poorest people in Indonesia; what was (1) the approved cash cost and (2) the actual cost of the project; what were (x) the projected completion date and (y) the actual completion date of the project; and if he will place a copy of the project completion report in the Library; [25176]

(3) pursuant to his answer of 30 June, *Official Report*, column *802*, which Indonesian companies were involved in the Ministry of Forestry radio communications system project in Indonesia; on what date his Department received from the DTI a formal request to appraise the project; on what date his Department completed its appraisal of the project; whom his Department engaged to appraise the project; on what dates site visits were made for the purposes of the appraisal, what sites were visited and by whom the visits were made; at the time of the economic appraisal, what were *(a)* the present value of the costs and *(b)* the present value of the benefits of the project and how the actual costs and benefits compared with those foreseen at the time of the appraisal; if his Department carried out an institutional appraisal in respect of the Ministry of Forestry and what was the outcome of that appraisal; what factors were taken into account in assessing whether the project represented value for money; on what date the Treasury gave its consent to the project; on what date the project was approved by the sub-committee for aid and trade; on what date the project was approved by the Minister; in what respect and to what extent the project benefits the poorest people in Indonesia; what was (i) the approved cash cost and (ii) the actual cash cost of the project; what were (1) the projected completion date and (2) the actual completion date of the project; and if he will place a copy of the project completion report in the Library; [35177]

(4) pursuant to his answer of 14 June, *Official Report*, column *567*, which is the lead British company involved in the construction of the Samarinda power station in Indonesia; which Indonesian companies are involved; on what date his Department received from the DTI a formal request to appraise the project; on what date his Department completed its appraisal of the project; whom his Department engaged to appraise the project; on what dates site visits were made for the purposes of the appraisal and by whom the visits were made; to what extent his Department consulted local people affected by the project; at the time of the economic appraisal, what were *(a)* the present value of the benefits and *(b)* the present value of the costs of the project; at the time of the appraisal; what were (i) the social cost, (ii) the social benefits, (iii) the environmental costs and (iv) the environmental benefits of the project; if his Department carried out an institutional appraisal in respect of the Indonesian Electricity Authority and what was the outcome of that appraisal; what factors were taken into account in assessing whether the project represented value for money; on what date the Treasury gave its consent to the project; on what date the project was approved by the sub-committee for aid and trade; on what date the project was approved by the Minister; in what respect and to what extent the project benefits the poorest people in Indonesia; what is the projected completion date of the project; and if he will make a statement about his Minister's recent visit to the project. [35178]

Mr. Hanley: Answers covering such a wide range of issues could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Policing

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what preparatory work he is doing on the structure and functions of the police before all-party peace talks. [33592]

Sir John Wheeler: There are two complementary processes currently in train dealing with policing in Northern Ireland. One involves a professional assessment of Northern Ireland's future policing needs in the context of continued peace and how the police service should meet those needs. The other is the continued development of proposals on the reform of relationships between the Government, the police authority and the Royal Ulster Constabulary, initiated by the publication in March 1994 of "Policing in the Community".

Policing matters may be discussed with the Government at any time.

Training

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were on action for community employment work schemes *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* at present; and if he will publish his information on the sponsorship of these schemes by public and private bodies. [33594]

Mr. Ancram: Responsibility for the subject in question has been delegated to the Training and Employment Agency under its chief executive, Mr. J. S. Crozier. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from J. S. Crozier to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 7 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me as Chief Executive of the Agency to reply to your question about the number of people on ACE schemes.

During the last five years the average number participating in the programme, including those who were funded under the Making Belfast Work Programme were:-

1994/95: 9,562

1993/94: 9,490

1992/93: 9,658

1991/92: 10,072

1990/91: 10,050

At 26 May 1995 occupancy during the first two months of the current financial year stood at 9,768.

A list of sponsor organisations including those in the public, voluntary and community sectors which are responsible for implementing and managing the individual projects on which employment is provided is attached.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ACE PROJECTS

Project name

ABB Community Scheme
ACE Ventures
Age Concern Newtownabbey
Age Concern Strabane
Age Concern (NI)
Ainsworth Community Association
Aisling Centre
All Saints Community Services
Antrim Borough Council
Antrim Community Enterprises
Archdiocese of Armagh
Armagh Diocesan Council
Armagh District Council
Armagh and District Community Projects
Ballyarnett Racecourse
Ballycastle Chamber of Commerce
Ballymena Borough Council
Ballymena YMCA Community Services
Ballymoney Borough Council
Ballymoney Community ACE Scheme
Ballynafeigh Community Development
Ballysally Residents Association
Banbridge District Council
Banbridge Heritage Development
Bangor YMCA
Bann ACE Scheme
Beachcraft Trust Ltd.
Belcoo and District Development Group
Belfast Centre for Unemployed
Belfast Exposed Photographic Group
Bellaghy Community Projects
Ben Madigan Environmental Society Ltd.
Benburb Centre ACE Scheme
Blind Centre for NI
Bridge Trust
Bridgeview Ltd.
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Bryson House
Carmen Trust Ltd.
Carrick Hill Community Development Project
Carrickfergus Enterprises
Carrickfergus Youth Services
Castlederg and District Development Association
Chinese Welfare Association
Christian Fellowship Community Care
Churches ACE
Churchtown Area Community Association
Cill Chluana Community Association
City of Belfast YMCA
Clanrye Abbey Developments
Clogher Care
Clonallen
Coleraine Churches Action
Coleraine Community Projects
Coleraine Women's Aid
Colin Glen Trust
Community Action North
Community Aid
Community Relations in Schools
Community Support Services
Confederation of Community Groups
Connswater River Conservation Committee
Conradh Na Gaeilge
Cookstown Community Renewal
Cornerstone Care
Corpus Christi Services
Co-operation North
Creation of Regional Employment
Crossfire Trust
Crossmaglen Community Association
Cuan Mhuire Trust
Derry City Council
Discovery 80 Ltd. SHARE
Divis Joint Development
Donaghdee Community Workforce
Dove House Resource Centre
Down and Connor Youth Council
Downpatrick and Area Inter-Church Caring Project
Downtown Women's Centre
Drumachose Development Project

Dun Uladh Cultural Heritage Association
Dundonald Community Project
Dungannon Development Association
Dungannon District Council
Dunlewey Outreach Centre
Dunloy and District Residents
Dunmurry Community Care
East Belfast Community Development
East Belfast Methodist Action on Unemployed
East Belfast Presbyterian Community Care Project
Ederney Community Development
Elim ACE Central
Elim ACE North
Elim ACE South
Enniskillen Community Development
Euro Children
Extern Organisation
Falls Community Council
Falls Womens Centre
Farset
Faughanvale Community Projects
Fermanagh District Council
Fintona Development Association
Fisheries Conservancy Board
Fold Housing Association
Foreglen Community Association
Foyle Day-Care Association
Gingerbread NI
Glen Community Parent/Youth Group
Glencairn Community Development
Glenmachan Community Project
Glenravel Community Association
Glens Community Services
Glenshane Community Development Ltd.
Glor Na nGael
Grosvenor Environmental Society
Guildhall Press
Haven ACE Scheme
Hillsborough Elim Council
Hilltop Environmental Scheme
Hilltown Community Association
Horn Drive Community Centre
Inner City Trust
Irish World Citizens Organisation
Jobquest Services
Kilbraney Centre
Kilcooley Environmental Project
Killylea and Tynan Community Association
King's Fellowship Community
Larne Community Enterprises
Lettershandoney Community Association
Ligoniel Improvements Association
Limavady Borough Council
Limavady Community Development
Lisburn Borough Council
Loughgiel Community Association
Lower Oldpark Community Association
Maghera and District Community Association
Magilligan Community Development
Markethill District Community Association
Maydown Ebrington Community Employment Project
Melmount Community Care
Middletown Community Development Association
Monkstown Churches Community Project
Mornington Enterprises Ltd.
Mount St. Nicholas
Mourne Community Association
Mourne Workshop Trust
National Trust
NEELB (Coleraine Information Centre)
Newcastle Community Projects
Newcastle Society for Mentally Handicapped
Newcraig Playgroups Association
Newhaven Trust Ltd.
Newhill Youth and Community Centre Association
Newington/Cavehill Community Services
Newry and District Community Services
Newtownabbey Community Group
Newtownabbey Employment Enterprises
Newtownards Community Workforce
NI Chest Heart and Stroke Association
NIACAB
NIACRO
NICOD
North Down Borough Council
North Queen Street Community Centre
North West Centre for Learning and Development
North West Tyrone ACE Project
North and West Housing
Northlands Centre
Northways Community Association
Oliver Plunket Youth and Welfare Scheme
Omagh District Council
Omagh Families Resource and Development Centre
Orchardville Society for the Mentally Handicapped
Parish of Magheralin
Parish of Nativity
Parish of St. Macnissi
PHAB NI
Phoenix YCP
Portadown YMCA
Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Project Portadown
Puzzles Playgroup
Rathcoole Community Group
Rathcoole Self Help Group
Rathfriland TARA
Rosemount and District Welfare Rights
Roslea GFC and Parish ACE
Shalorn House (Lamb of God)
Shankhill Community Projects
Shankill Road Mission
Shankill Women's Centre
Shankill and Glencairn Community Association
Shankill and Oldpark Community Association
Shelter NI
Simon Community NI
Sion Mills Area Trust
South City Community Projects
Springfields Charitable Association
St. Agnes Community Concern Association
St. Davog's Parish
St. Eugene's Parish
St. Georges Youth and Community Development
St. Luke's (Twinbrook)
St. McCartan's Parish
St. Patrick's and St. Colman's Trust
St. Patrick's Community Enterprise
St. Patrick's Parish Keedy
St. Patrick's Youth Club
St. Teresa's Community Project
STEP Ltd.
Strabane Community Project
Strabane District Council
Strathfoyle Community Association
Suffolk Community Services
SVDP—Antrim Road
SVDP—Coalisland
SVDP—Cookstown
SVDP—Craigavon
SVDP—Kilrea
SVDP—Lurgan
SVDP—Strathroy
SVDP—West Belfast
Sydenham House
Teemore Parish Council
The 174 Trust
The Barnabas Trust
The Family Centre
The Resource Centre
The Somme Association
The Ulster Society

Turf Lodge Enterprise Scheme
Ulster Historical Foundation
Ulster Peoples College
Ulster Wildlife Trust
Upper Ards Community Association
VSB
VSL
Waveney Community Association
We Care Third World Centre
Welcome Trust (L.F.H.A.)
YMCA Employment Services

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland where he publishes a list of approved training organisations; and what percentage of trainees under the jobskills programme are registered with public sector, private sector and other organisations. [35292]

Mr. Ancram: Responsibility for the subject in question has been delegated to the Training and Employment Agency under its chief executive, Mr. J. S. Crozier. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from J. S. Crozier to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 17 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me, as Chief Executive of the Training and Employment Agency, to reply to your question.

Details of approved Training Organisations are published in a Directory of Training Opportunities (formerly known as the Directory of Training Providers). This is a comprehensive guide to training opportunities and providers in Northern Ireland and is available from the Agency on request. The next Directory up-date will contain details of those Training Organisations participating in the Jobskills Programme. Meanwhile, a list of the jobskills approved Training Organisations is included in the Agency's 'Jobskills News' publication.

The NT wide Jobskills Programme commenced on 3 April and is therefore still in a build-up situation. The following percentages reflect the trainees participating in the Programme at the end of June 1995.

Public Sector: -13%

Private Sector: -65%

Other Organisations: -22%

I hope that you find this helpful.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the structure of funding for training organisations under the jobskills programme; how much of an organisation's funding is on the basis of registration of numbers; and how much on the basis of output related funding and trainee bonus. [35293]

Mr. Ancram: Responsibility for the subject in question has been delegated to the Training and Employment Agency under its chief executive, Mr. J. S. Crozier. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from J. S. Crozier to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 17 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me, as Chief Executive of the Training and Employment Agency, to reply to your question.

The Jobskills Programme's funding arrangements take account of the variation in training costs between different occupational areas. Furthermore, the Programme's flexible funding structure is designed to encourage and enable trainees to progress into higher levels of training and, to provide incentives to both training organisations and trainees to attain targeted vocational qualifications.

Payments are made to training organisations on the basis of occupied places, with 30% of their funding dependant on the achievement of full qualifications by trainees. On gaining their qualifications, trainees can qualify for a bonus of up to £400 and this is paid to them via the Training Organisations

I hope that you find this helpful.

Human Rights

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what preparatory work he is doing on human rights issues before all-party talks in the peace process. [33591]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 July, *Official Report*, columns *518–19*.

I have invited the main parties to separate bilateral meetings to discuss the issues, including those relating to human rights, on which there needs to be agreement if a widely acceptable settlement is to be achieved.

The effectiveness of existing measures is being kept under review, having regard, among other things, to the contribution that changes might make to a political settlement.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33436]

Sir John Wheeler: The information is as follows:

(a) by number of contracts

Name of company	*Number of contracts*
Coopers and Lybrand	235
Touche Ross	139
Price Waterhouse	123
Ernst and Young	80
Capita	71

(b) by monetary value

Name of company	*Consultancy fees and expenses £ million*
Coopers and Lybrand	4.93
Denton Hall Burgen and Warre	[1]—
Price Waterhouse	1.93
Rothschild and Sons	[1]—
Touche Ross	4.47

[1] As Denton Hall Burgen and Warrens, and Rothschild have been employed only on one consultancy contract, details of the fees and expenses would breach commercial confidentiality.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost of the last five years. [33573]

Sir John Wheeler: The information is as follows:

Financial year	Number of contracts	Cost £
1990–91	529	7,610,744
1991–92	478	12,938,631
1992–93	584	8,570,192
1993–94	805	12,124,283
1994–95	686	5,625,185

Undergraduates

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many undergraduates enrolled during the most recent academic year at *(a)* the Queen's university of Belfast and *(b)* the university of Ulster; and how many in each case came from (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) the Republic of Ireland. [33628]

Mr. Ancram: In 1993–94, the latest year for which information is available, there were 10,037 undergraduates enrolled at the Queen's university of Belfast, of whom 8,896 came from Northern Ireland and 537 from the Republic of Ireland. In the same year, there were 13,852 undergraduates enrolled at the university of Ulster, of whom 11,408 came from Northern Ireland and 1,679 from the Republic of Ireland.

Department of Employment (Abolition)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what changes he will make to the responsibilities of his ministerial team and the Northern Ireland Office to reflect the abolition of the Department of Employment. [33659]

Mr. Ancram: There is no direct equivalent in Northern Ireland to the Department of Employment, although these functions are largely subsumed within the Department of Economic Development. There are no plans, therefore, to make any changes to the responsibilities of the Northern Ireland ministerial team and the Northern Ireland Office following the abolition of the Department of Employment.

Firearm Thefts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many thefts of *(a)* shotguns and *(b)* other firearms took place in each of the last five years (i) from domestic premises and (ii) from other premises in each police force area. [34188]

Sir John Wheeler *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The information is as follows:

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*Total*
Thefts of shotguns						
Thefts of shotguns from domestic premises	44	37	54	36	54	225
Thefts of shotguns from non-domestic premises	3	2	1	4	1	11
Total	47	39	55	40	55	236
Thefts of other firearms						
Thefts of firearms other than shotguns from domestic premises	21	28	21	26	43	139
Thefts of firearms other than shotguns from non-domestic premises	18	24	10	19	29	100
Total	39	52	31	45	72	239

Note:
There may be incidents in which more than one type of firearm was stolen, eg a shotgun and a rifle. For the purposes of this analysis such incidents are recorded once under each heading.

Firearms (Homicides)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many homicides involving *(a)* shotguns and *(b)* other firearms have taken place in each police force area in each of the last five years; and how many of the victims in each case were women. [34139]

Sir John Wheeler *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The information is as follows:

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*Totals*
Homicides involving shotguns						
Male	0	6	11	7	6	30
Female	1	0	3	3	1	8
Total	1	6	14	10	7	38
Homicides involving firearms other than shotguns						
Male	52	62	55	59	46	274
Female	0	7	5	2	8	22
Total	52	69	60	61	54	296

Compensation Agency

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the distribution of settlement times for claims to the Compensation Agency for *(a)* injury and *(b)* damage. [34367]

Sir John Wheeler: Responsibility for the subject in question has been delegated to the Compensation Agency under its chief executive, Mr. Denis Stanley. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from D. A. Stanley to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 17 July 1995:

The Minister of State, Sir John Wheeler, has asked me to reply, on behalf of the Compensation Agency, to your recent Question regarding settlement times for claims for criminal injury and criminal damage compensation in Northern Ireland.

During 1994–95 the average time taken to reach a decision on criminal injuries claims was 65 weeks. This compares with a key performance target of 71 weeks.

Over the same period the average time taken to decide criminal damage claims was 44 weeks compared with a key performance target of 40 weeks. Failure to reach this target can be attributed largely to a reduction in the number of criminal damage claims received following the paramilitary cease-fires. This reduction in new claims allowed the Agency to make significant in-roads into the clearance of older claims which inevitably led to an increase in the average time to decide claims.

The Agency's performance against all the key performance and subsidiary targets is shortly to be published in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts for 1994–95.

Community Nurses

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* health visitors, *(b)* district nurses, *(c)* community psychiatric nurses and *(d)* school nurses were employed in each area of Northern Ireland on 30 September 1993, and for the latest date available, expressed as whole-time equivalents and actual numbers; and if she will list the same information for student health visitors and student district nurses. [33254]

Mr. Moss: The information is as follows:

September	*Eastern*		*Northern*		*Southern*		*Western*	
	Number	*WTE*	*Number*	*WTE*	*Number*	*WTE*	*Number*	*WTE*
Qualified health visitors								
1993	209	191.9	109	100.2	88	80.5	71	64.9
1994	184	166.0	103	93.5	91	82.4	69	63.2
Qualified district nurses								
1993	161	157.0	72	69.2	64	63.2	75	72.3
1994	145	139.8	68	64.9	60	59.2	73	69.5
Qualified community psychiatric nurses								
1993	71	71.0	19	19.0	17	17.0	15	15.0
1994	68	67.0	20	20.0	16	16.0	19	19.0
Qualified school nurses								
1993	38	32.0	21	14.4	16	12.6	19	14.8
1994	46	38.1	21	14.4	18	14.1	19	14.9
Student health visitors								
1993	8	8.0	—	—	7	7.0	—	—
1994	—	—	—	—	5	5.0	—	—
Student district nurses								
1993	2	2.0	—	—	3	3.0	—	—
1994	—	—	—	—	2	2.0	—	—

Notes:
The latest figures available relate to September 1994.
WTE= whole-time equivalent.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish a breakdown by area of the health visitors, district nurses and school nurses by each income band for September 1993 and for the latest date for which information is available. [33255]

Mr. Moss: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish a breakdown by area of the population numbers per health visitor on September 1992 and September 1993 and for the latest date for which information is available; and what is the number of health visitors *(a)* per under five and *(b)* per over 65 years in each area. [33256]

Mr. Moss: The information is as follows:

September	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Southern*	*Western*
Population number per health visitor				
1992	2,842	3,503	3,270	3,399
1993	3,178	3,728	3,337	3,770
1994	3,620	3,967	3,267	3,910

September	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Southern*	*Western*
Health visitors per 1,000 population under five				
1992	4.3	3.5	3.3	3.0
1993	3.8	3.2	3.2	2.8
1994	3.3	3.0	3.3	2.7
Health visitors per 1,000 population 65 and over				
1992	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.5
1993	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.3
1994	1.7	1.9	2.4	2.2

Notes:
The latest figures available relate to September 1994.
1993 mid-year estimates for populations, which are the latest available, were used to calculate the 1994 ratios.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Intervention Grain

Sir Donald Thompson: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Thanet, North (Mr. Gale) of 26 June, *Official Report*, column *528*, if he will detail the steps he took to oppose subsidised grain prices to Spanish pig farmers. [34306]

Mr. Baldry: The sale of stocks out of intervention is agreed through management committee procedure. The UK, along with certain other member states, argued strongly against the proposals but was outvoted on this occasion.

Sir Donald Thompson: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Thanet, North (Mr. Gale) of 28 June, *Official Report*, column *698*, at what prices tenderers bought grain out of intervention. [34295]

Mr. Baldry: The results of the adjudication of the tenders for the sale of barley out of UK intervention destined for Spain are as follows:

Date of adjudication	*Tonnage*	*Selling price from intervention (ecu/t)*	*(£/t)*
29 June 1995	108,308	122.49–124.30	[1]103.01–104.54
6 July 1995	141,688	125.41–125.61	[2]105.84–106.01

Conversion rates:
[1] 1 ecu = £0.840997 (rate in force from 15 May 1995).
[2] 1 ecu = £0.843954 (rate in force from 4 July 1995).

These prices are lower than the normal sale price of 140.31 ecu/t (£118.42/t). The difference is intended to help the shipper meet the cost of transport from the UK port to Spain.

Refrigeration (Listeria)

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what studies have been undertaken by his Department into the problems of poor refrigeration in households being insufficient to combat listeria in food; and what plans has he to ensure that new refrigeration units are fitted with thermometers. [34234]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: A survey on the temperatures in domestic refrigerators was carried out by the university of Bristol on behalf of MAFF. The report "Consumer handling of chilled foods: A survey of time and temperature conditions" was published in October 1991. As a result of the survey, MAFF agreed with refrigerator manufactures and consumer groups to issue a "FoodSense" booklet "Keeping Food Cool and Safe".

There are no plans to require new refrigeration units to be fitted with thermometers. However, the Ministry encourages manufactures to supply simple thermometers with the appliance instructions. The "FoodSense" booklet encourages consumers to use fridge thermometers and gives advice on where to place them.

Listeria

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what steps have been taken by his Department to ensure that cook-chilled meals and ready to eat poultry carry sufficient labelling to warn customers that the produce must be re-heated to a sufficient temperature to reduce risks of listeria. [34235]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: The food labelling regulations require that the labelling of prepacked foods should include instructions for use to enable appropriate preparation or use of the food. In addition, general advice to consumers that cooking food thoroughly, so that the temperature at the centre reaches at least 70 degrees centigrade for at least two minute, will kill most harmful bacteria that cause food poisoning, has already been published in the free "FoodSense" booklet on food safety.

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what discussions have taken place with the Department of Health to co-ordinate matters specifically relating to concerns over listeria in food in the last five years. [34226]

Mr. Hogg: The incidence of listeriosis has declined significantly since 1988, and there has been no call for specific discussions between Departments about listeria in food in the last five years. However, the issue of listeria routinely arises during wider discussions between Departments on microbiological food safety matters.

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what representations his Department received regarding listeria in food *(a)* prior to and *(b)* following the guidelines issued by the Chief Medical Officer on 10 February 1989. [34229]

Mr. Hogg: Our records suggest that the bulk of such representations are directed to the Department of Health, which is generally in the lead in this matter. My Department has occasionally received correspondence, for example from trade associations.

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* farmers, *(b)* food processing companies and *(c)* consumer groups regarding listeria in food in the past five years. [34230]

Mr. Hogg: My Department has had discussions with these groups, and in particular the food processors, about the standard for listeria which is set by the EC milk hygiene directive.

Food Safety

Dr. Strang: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what discussions have taken place in the last five years with the Department of Health to co-ordinate matters concerning food safety. [34225]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: My Department is in daily contact with the Department of Health at official level on matters of food safety. In addition, there are regular meetings at ministerial level.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the past 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as "www.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34714]

Mr. Boswell: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food participated from the outset in the Government world wide web, server project. As a result, WWW users can access the UK food and farming in figures pages on the server to retrieve series of agriculture and food data drawn from the Department's major statistical compilations. There are additional pages with background

information about the Department's responsibilities, aims and objectives and contacts, including the MAFF helpline which has an e-mail number for communicating with inquirers over the Internet.

The Department is aiming to build on the experience gained through its participation in this project by introducing a dedicated MAFF world wide web server. There are a number of security and technical issues still to be addressed but, when fully implemented, MAFF divisions will be encouraged and supported in the use of the system to disseminate a wider range of information about MAFF services, activities, contacts and publications to WWW users.

Computer Equipment Supplies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and Agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34548]

Mr. Boswell *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* In August 1991, a contract was awarded to Siemens Nixdorf Information Systems to supply my Department with a wide range of computer equipment. Since then, the company has provided the Department with nearly 95 per cent. of its computer equipment, at a total value exceeding £30 million.

A number of other companies supplied the remaining few per cent., but these cannot be identified and ranked without considerable effort by the officials.

Common Fisheries Policy (Withdrawal)

Mr. David Porter: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make it his policy to seek to withdraw from the common fisheries policy and establish bilateral fishing deals with the relevant maritime neighbours; and if he will make a statement. [34393]

Mr. Baldry: Withdrawal from the common fisheries policy is not an option, either legally or practically. Our obligations as a signatory of the treaties of Rome and of Maastricht include recognition of the EC's authority to legislate for fisheries, and of that legislation's direct application in all member states. Because of the over-capacity of national fleets and the fact that fish stocks do not respect national boundaries, international co-operation on conservation management is essential. Our membership of the common fisheries policy ensures, through our involvement in the negotiation of technical conservation measures, that the fish we want to catch are protected while they are developing in other countries' waters. Without our participation in the common fisheries policy, the UK industry's access to export markets to other EU member states, worth around £550 million in 1994, would be called into question.

Fish Stocks (Conservation)

Mr. David Porter: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans he has to now reduce discards and improve the conservation of fish stocks by amendment of the common fisheries policy; and if he will make a statement. [34394]

Mr. Baldry: The Council of Ministers has asked the Commission to bring forward proposals which address the discarding problem. The Commission has also accepted an obligation to review the technical conservation measures applicable in both western waters and the north sea. Within the UK, our industry has been invited to put forward constructive ideas for consideration by the common fisheries policy review group. I shall take forward the work of this group over the coming months.

Welsh Universities (Economic Studies)

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the value of economic studies commissioned by his Department from Welsh universities and colleges in 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34891]

Mr. Boswell: My Department commissioned no economic studies from Welsh universities and colleges in 1994–95. I understand that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales has commissioned work from these organisations.

Civil Servants (European Commission)

Mr. Hain: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if officials seconded by his Department to work with the European Commission are required to promote and pursue the policies of Her Majesty's Government in relation to the availability of vitamin, mineral and other dietary supplements; what codes of practice apply to the employment of such officials by commercial companies or organisations following their secondment; and if he will make a statement. [35098]

Mr. Boswell: Officials seconded to the European Commission work for the Commission and have no role in promoting the Government's views. The normal business appointment rules apply to such staff as they do to all civil servants.

DEFENCE

Astra

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a full statement on the findings of the Ministry of Defence police investigation into allegations of corruption concerning employees of the Astra group of companies; and if he will make a statement. [33526]

Mr. Soames: Four employees of the Astra group of companies were investigated by the Ministry of Defence police, who were inquiring into allegations of corruption. One was subsequently found guilty of two charges of corruption and received a custodial sentence.

Murderers (Armed Forces)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many convicted murderers are presently serving in Her Majesty's armed forces. [33623]

Mr. Soames: There are five soldiers serving in the armed forces who have been convicted of murder. In four cases, discharge procedures have been initiated. In two of these, action is in abeyance pending the outcome of appeals. In the fifth case, the solider concerned is a

Gurkha. The Army is obliged to discharge Gurkha soldiers in Nepal and that will be on completion of his custodial sentence.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what circumstances a solider who has served a sentence for murder can continue to serve in the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [33624]

Mr. Soames: It is normal practice to discharge service personnel who have been convicted of murder unless there are exceptional circumstances. It would be for the appropriate service board of the Defence Council to decide whether the circumstances of an individual case merited retention.

BMARC

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to give a substantive reply to the question from the hon. Member for Pendle on BMARC. [33700]

Mr. Soames: The investigation initiated by the deputy chief constable referred to in my answer to the hon. Member for South Shields (Dr. Clark), *Official Report*, column *31*, has not yet been completed. I shall write to the hon. Member when the outcome is known.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if there will be an ethical review of the research conducted by his Department involving animals. [34998]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Experiments involving animals and conducted by my Department or its agencies are subject to a rigorous process of internal review and external control by the Home Office, in accordance with the requirements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. The experiments account for less than half of 1 per cent. of all experiments in the United Kingdom involving animals. Nevertheless, I am keen to adopt any additional measures that would serve to strengthen public confidence in the procedures that govern animal experiments in my Department and, to this end, I have agreed to establish an animal welfare advisory committee. The committee will comprise three independent members and will review animal care and welfare arrangements at establishments conducting experiments involving animals. The committee will advise the senior manager responsible for the establishment in which experiments take place and will, quite separately, make an independent report normally once a year, to the Ministry of Defence's chief scientific adviser.

I have placed a copy of the terms of reference of the new committee in the Library. Approaches will be made to three individuals who represent a range of interests related to the conduct of scientific experiments involving animals.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the past 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34589]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* During the financial year 1994–95, the latest period for which figures are available centrally, there were 3,058 redundancies in my Department. Our records do not distinguish between those who were made redundant compulsorily and those who volunteered for redundancy. The total sum spent on early retirement and redundancy in the same period was some £59 million.

Sickness Absence

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days were lost in sickness in the past 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34588]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The total number of days sick absence taken by staff in my Department between 1 April 1994 and 31 March 1995 was 959,858. This figure relates to full-time non-industrial staff and includes weekends and public holidays as it is not possible in the time available to make adjustments for these. This is 3.18 per cent. of days worked. It is not possible to calculate the cost of this absence without disproportionate cost.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the past 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34587]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* Fifty-five appeals against dismissal have been heard by the Civil Service Appeal Board since July 1994. In nine cases, the decision to dismiss was found to be unfair. Hearing reports have been issued on four of these cases and resulted in the payment of £7,160 to one appellant. Records of appeals to industrial tribunals by civilian members of my Department's staff are not maintained centrally. Compensation amounting to £8,000 has been paid to two appellants who appealed to industrial tribunals during the last 12 months. No legal fees were paid in the three cases where compensation had been paid.

Cooks (Training)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many schools there are for the training of cooks; where they are located; and what is the number of cooks presently being trained at each school and the estimated running costs of each school for this year for each service. [34430]

Mr. Soames: Three sites provide training for service cooks. They are: HMS Raleigh in Cornwall; the Army School of Catering at St. Omer barracks, Aldershot and RAF Halton, near Aylesbury. At present, the Royal Navy has 49 cooks undergoing training, the Army 157 and the RAF 18 on courses ranging from apprenticeships to advanced trade training. The estimated running costs for each school are: catering training within the overall budget of HMS Raleigh, £850,000; Army School of Catering, £7.536 million; costs specific to Catering Training Squadron at RAF Halton, £215,000. The difference in running costs reflects the different constitution of the schools; HMS Raleigh and RAF Halton

are units within larger establishments and have the benefit of sharing overhead and support costs with their hosts, while St. Omer barracks is a stand-alone facility responsible for its own site and its attendant support.

Arms Sales (Iraq)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military equipment used by Iraq in the Gulf war and subsequently discovered by the United Kingdom and its allies was *(a)* manufactured in the United Kingdom and *(b)* purchased from the United Kingdom; and from which companies it derived. [35094]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No comprehensive record was kept of the large quantities of Iraqi equipment captured by the allies during the Gulf conflict. However, some electrical items or components of British manufacture were found. Exports of defence equipment to Iraq are currently being investigated by Sir Richard Scott.

Defence Animal Centre

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 11 July, *Official Report*, column *532*, what activities other than horse training take place at the Defence Animal Centre; and which other Government Departments use its services. [34790]

Mr. Soames: This is a matter for the Defence Animal Centre, DAC, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive of DAC to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Colonel A. H. Roache to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 17 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Defence has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question regarding activities other than horse training at the Defence Animal Centre.

The Defence Animal Centre carries out the following activities for the MOD: procurement and training of dogs and horses; development of animal training methods; training of individuals in animal handling and management skills and provision of base veterinary support. The following other government departments use its services: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Prison Service, Scottish Prison Service, HM Customs & Excise, Immigration Service, Jersey & Guernsey Police.

I hope you find this information useful.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 11 July, *Official Report*, column *532*, which animals in addition to dogs and horses are trained at the Defence Animal Centre giving *(a)* the number and *(b)* the costs for each category. [34791]

Mr. Soames: This is a matter for the Defence Animal Centre, DAC, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive of DAC to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Colonel A. H. Roache to Mr. Alan Milburn, dated 17 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Defence has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question regarding animal training at the Defence Animal Centre. The answer is that no animals other than horses or dogs are trained here.

I hope you find this information useful.

Official Cars

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 11 July, *Official Report*, column *532*, how many senior officers can call on the official pool of vehicles; how many vehicles there are; and how many have been bought in the past five years; and at what cost. [34792]

Mr. Soames: My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Horses

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 11 July, *Official Report*, column *532*, how many horses are currently in service. [34793]

Mr. Soames: The Army, which is the only service to own horses at public expense, has 440 fully trained horses in service.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33466]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The only privatisation programme for which information on the use of consultants can be made available without disproportionate cost is that in connection with the proposed privatisation of the royal dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth about which my right hon. and learned Friend the then Secretary of State for Defence made an announcement on 18 October 1993, *Official Report*, columns 39–41. Between 18 October 1993 and 12 July 1995, payments made to consultants in relation to their work totalled £7.1 million. Further costs have been incurred, but final details will not be available until invoices have been presented and payments agreed.

Previous estimates given to hon. Members by my right hon. Friend the Member for Kettering (Mr. Freeman) gave a figure for "payments made or outstanding". The figure for payments outstanding included estimates which were higher than actual outturn costs. I can now report that costs reported in the previous answers were overstated by some £510,000. Therefore, the costs previously quoted as £7.2 million and £6.5 million are now known to have been £6.7 million and £6 million respectively.

I have written to the hon. Members for South Shields (Dr. Clark), for Plymouth, Devenport (Mr. Jamieson) and for Leeds, Central (Mr. Fatchett) to inform them of the revision to the figures which they were given in previous answers.

Wrongful Dismissal

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *184*, if he will list the categories of information on legal costs for claims of wrongful dismissal by which his Department collates information. [34851]

Mr. Arbuthnot: As my predecessor said in his reply of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *184*, my Department keeps no central record of cases of wrongful dismissal and the Treasury solicitor's department would require details of individual cases before it could provide information on legal costs incurred by my Department in such cases. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. If, however, the hon. Lady has a particular category of wrongful dismissal or other type of claim on which she requires information, she should write to my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, who will be happy to consider the matter further.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Nursery Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1) what assumptions have been made in her current plans for nursery education vouchers for the redemption value of such vouchers; [34827]

(2) if a nursery education voucher used in part or full payment for five half days a week at a playgroup will have the same value as a voucher used for part or full payment for the same period at a private nursery; and if she will make a statement. [34829]

Mr. Robin Squire: The expectation is that a voucher worth around £1,100 will be exchanged for either a part-time place in a nursery class, nursery school, or private nursery establishment, or a full-time place in a reception class, or up to a full-time place in a playgroup. The detailed funding regime for playgroups will be considered further.

Mr. Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if pre-school playgroups and private nursery schools will be expected to achieve the same stated learning achievements if they are to be eligible for participation in the nursery education voucher scheme. [34828]

Mr. Squire: All institutions offering pre-school education in exchange for vouchers will be expected to work towards the same desirable achievements for children's learning.

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment at what age a child qualifies for being funded for a nursery place by the new voucher initiative. [34469]

Mr. Squire: A child will become eligible for a voucher at the beginning of the first term after his or her fourth birthday.

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what guidance her Department gives on the appropriate adult-child ratio for nursery classes to be funded by the nursery voucher scheme. [34467]

Mr. Squire: My right hon. Friend and the Secretary of State for Health are jointly consulting on whether the existing guidance on adult-child ratios remain appropriate for institutions registered to exchange vouchers for pre-school education.

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1) who will be responsible for the administrative costs of the nursery voucher initiative; [34466]

(2) what she estimates will be the administrative costs of the nursery initiative for individual local education authorities the size of Ealing; [34470]

(3) pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517–19, on pre-school education, what estimates she has for the total cost of running the voucher scheme. [34108]

Mr. Squire: The cost of issuing and redeeming vouchers is expected to be less than 1.5 per cent. of the value of the vouchers themselves.

The administration costs are included in the £185 million of new money announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State. Because administration will be handled by a private sector company, the additional burden on local authorities is not expected to be significant.

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will allow local education authorities to borrow extra capital specifically to fund the provision of extra nursery facilities in their areas. [34468]

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517–19, on pre-school education (1) what supplementary capital funding she intends to make available to those parts of the country which currently have the lowest levels of provision for four-year-olds; [34114]

(2) what capital funding she intends to make available to facilitate the expansion of pre-school places for four-year-olds. [34115]

Mr. Squire: The private and voluntary sectors can raise any capital needed for expansion commercially on the strength of voucher income. In the maintained sector, local education authorities are free to determine their own priorities for capital expenditure. Local education authorities and their schools can also enter into arrangements with the private sector using the new freedoms provided by the private finance initiative.

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what steps she taking to protect the position of education authorities that have already made substantial provision for nursery education, so that their standard spending assessment is not to be disadvantaged in relation to authorities which have made little provision. [34498]

Mr. Squire: If their recruitment of four-year-olds is maintained at present levels, no LEA will be worse off under the proposed funding method for the voucher scheme.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517–19, on

pre-school education, which companies have been invited to tender for the administration of the voucher scheme; and which companies have submitted bids. [34106]

Mr. Squire: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 6 July her decision to select, by competitive tender, a private sector company to issue and redeem the pre-school voucher. Advertisements inviting expressions of interest will be published shortly.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report,* columns 517–19, on pre-school education, (1) what provision will be made for children who would currently receive a full-time nursery place in the maintained sector; [34118]

(2) if the Government will continue to give financial support to local education authorities to provide for three-year-olds; and what plans there are to change the level of support for three-year-olds; [34107]

(3) pursuant to her answer of 15 May, *Official Report,* columns *11–12*, how a local education authority should meet the difference in the cost between the £1,100 voucher and a full-time place in an infant class. [34117]

Mr. Squire: The proposed funding method will recoup from local authorities a sum equivalent to the voucher value multiplied by the number of four-year-olds in maintained provision in each authority. This is only a part of total spending on under-fives, and allows local education authorities to continue to spend above the voucher value on full or part-time places for four-year-olds, and on three-year-olds, as they judge appropriate.

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report,* columns 517–19, in respect of legislative change to implement her plans for changes in education for the under-fives, if there will be changes in the statutory instruments defining the qualifications of teachers in nursery schools and those relating to their premises. [34120]

Mr. Squire: My right hon. Friend and the Secretary of State for Health will be jointly consulting on whether the requirements of the Children Act 1989, including those that relate to premises, remain appropriate for institutions which register to exchange vouchers for pre-school education.

In addition, my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Education and Employment and for Wales announced on 14 July their intention to consult on a new set of school premises regulations. These regulations apply to all maintained schools, including maintained nursery schools. They will continue to do so. My right hon. Friend made it clear that all essential health and safety requirements in the current regulations will be retained.

My right hon. Friend has no plans at this stage to impose any new qualification requirements for staff in any institutions which register to exchange vouchers for pre-school education.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report,* columns 517–19, on pre-school education, what plans she has to enable provision over and above the value of the voucher to be provided for children with special educational needs. [34112]

Mr. Squire: Local education authorities will keep some of their existing funding for four-year-olds, and be able to spend more than the value of the voucher where needed to offer appropriate provision for pupils with special educational needs.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns *517-19*, on pre-school education, what plans she has to bring school providers currently regulated under the Children Act 1989 under the inspection of the Office for Standards in Education. [34111]

Mr. Squire: My right hon. Friend plans to introduce an inspection regime which will regulate standards of education at all institutions registered to exchange vouchers for pre-school education, including those institutions currently registered under the Children Act. She is consulting jointly with the Secretary of State for Health on the nature of the inspection regime.

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what steps she expects to take to ensure that levels of staffing in existing local authority nursery schools will not be prejudiced by the establishments of new nursery schools by a provider offering improved remuneration and conditions to those currently available. [34119]

Mr. Squire: Provided local authority nursery schools continue to recruit the same number of four-year-olds as they do now, in response to parental demand, they should not have their funding reduced. It is for the private and voluntary sector institutions to set their own rates of pay and conditions of service.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517-19, on pre-school education, by how much local authority standard spending assessment for under-fives education will be reduced once the full voucher scheme has been reduced. [34109]

Mr. Squire: The amount recouped from each local authority to contribute to funding the voucher scheme will be the product of the number of four-year-olds in maintained provision and the voucher value. For full implementation of the scheme, the amount recouped is likely to be in the region of £545 million.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517-19, on pre-school education, what financial assistance will be made available to train teachers and staff for the expansion of pre-school places for four-year-olds.

Mr. Squire: Institutions which exchange vouchers for pre-school education will be able to use voucher income to invest in staff training to raise the quality of provision and to meet the needs of children and parents.

Pupil-population Ratios

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will list in descending order the number of pupils as a percentage of the resident population in each local education authority area on the most recent date when such numbers were estimated; and what consideration is given to such actual pupil-population ratios in the calculation of education standard spending assessments. [34485]

Mr. Robin Squire *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The table compares the number of pupils aged five to 15 at August 1993 living in their area for whom local education authorities were financially responsible with their overall population aged five to 15 at June 1993. Precise ratios are difficult to calculate because the pupil and population data are estimated on different dates.

Ratio of pupils to population

LEA name	*Resorted pupils aged 5–15*	*Population aged 5–15*	*Pupils as a percentage of population*
Tower Hamlets	28,738	28,662	100.3
Sandwell	41,488	41,653	99.6
Walsall	38,135	38,538	99.0
Doncaster	42,372	42,924	98.7
Birmingham	150,327	152,602	98.5
Rotherham	36,034	36,611	98.4
Liverpool	67,165	68,277	98.4
Tameside	31,322	31,859	98.3
St. Helens	24,923	25,377	98.2
Barking and Dagenham	20,211	20,608	98.1
Waltham Forest	28,555	29,124	98.0
Dudley	40,751	41,662	97.8
Wigan	43,283	44,334	97.6
Cleveland	85,364	87,520	97.5
Barnsley	30,022	30,921	97.1
Oldham	33,141	34,174	97.0
Knowsley	25,061	25,847	97.0
Wolverhampton	34,450	35,541	96.9
Havering	30,493	31,468	96.9
Lincolnshire	77,514	80,028	96.9
Bexley	28,993	29,938	96.8
Newham	35,515	36,674	96.8
Rochdale	31,329	32,366	96.8
Calderdale	26,902	27,796	96.8
Enfield	33,938	35,115	96.6
Sunderland	43,086	44,597	96.6
Bradford	73,686	76,385	96.5
Humberside	121,466	125,947	96.4
Staffordshire	141,769	147,227	96.3
Cumbria	62,641	65,237	96.0
North Tyneside	25,581	26,644	96.0
South Tyneside	21,782	22,689	96.0
Northumberland	41,399	43,140	96.0
Sheffield	62,300	65,074	95.7
Durham	81345	85,009	95.7
Bolton	37,407	39,119	95.6
Derbyshire	122,602	128,223	95.6
Wakefield	42,676	44,666	95.5
Cornwall	61,135	64,061	95.4
Lancashire	192,358	201,916	95.3
Essex	201,510	212,625	94.8
Nottinghamshire	132,564	140,082	94.6
Leeds	91,239	96,440	94.6
Kirklees	53,250	56,287	94.6
Manchester	60,540	64,012	94.6
Coventry	41,219	43,698	94.3
Bedfordshire	76,165	80,750	94.3
Cheshire	130,548	138,525	94.2
Isle of Wight Council	15,298	16,233	94.2
Bury	24,392	25,936	94.0
Gateshead	25,152	26,828	93.8
Leicestershire	122,068	130,211	93.7
Hounslow	26,545	28,326	93.7
Norfolk	91,631	97,821	93.7

Ratio of pupils to population

LEA name	*Resorted pupils aged 5–15*	*Population aged 5–15*	*Pupils as a percentage of population*
Salford	29,379	31,383	93.6
Hillingdon	29,472	31,526	93.5
Shropshire	54,649	58,624	93.2
Wirral	45,406	48,722	93.2
Kent	199,678	214,440	93.1
Wiltshire	75,256	80,994	92.9
Brent	32,059	34,513	92.9
Sefton	38,014	40,931	92.9
Northamptonshire	81,242	87,524	92.8
Sutton	20,841	22,498	92.6
Cambridgeshire	87,466	94,449	92.6
Solihull	26,189	28,297	92.6
Isles of Scilly	283	306	92.5
North Yorkshire	87,480	94,596	92.5
Haringey	24,628	26,639	92.5
Devon	124,886	135,327	92.3
Trafford	28,267	30,723	92.0
Warwickshire	61,565	67,160	91.7
Glouchestershire	67,259	73,380	91.7
Greenwich	28,973	31,632	91.6
Redbridge	29,337	32,086	91.4
Dorset	74,996	82,064	91.4
Hampshire	198,595	217,914	91.1
Hereford and Worcester	88,165	96,984	90.9
Hertfordshire	125,556	138,140	90.9
Avon	115,363	126,966	90.9
Lewisham	28,250	31,119	90.8
Newcastle upon Tyne	33,269	36,710	90.6
Buckinghamshire	88,271	97,748	90.3
Stockport	36,613	40,589	90.2
West Sussex	83,537	93,215	89.6
Somerset	58,119	65,088	89.3
Suffolk	79,690	89,662	88.9
Islington	18,907	21,282	88.8
Berkshire	97,221	109,465	88.8
Bromley	32,085	36,276	88.4
Lambeth	28,310	32,178	88.0
Ealing	33,738	38,362	87.9
East Sussex	76,631	87,722	87.4
Croydon	37,961	43,868	86.5
Kingston upon Thames	14,380	16,732	85.9
Southwark	25,625	29,948	85.6
Harrow	24,333	28,774	84.6
Merton	17,993	21,303	84.5
Oxfordshire	66,870	79,347	84.3
Hackney	23,720	28,288	83.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	12,455	15,210	81.9
Wandsworth	20,981	25,944	80.9
Camden	15,331	19,000	80.7
Barnet	32,046	40,593	78.9
Surrey	106,365	136,266	78.1
Richmond upon Thames	13,616	18,924	72.0
Westminster	10,892	16,458	66.2
Kensington and Chelsea	7,164	12,986	55.2
City of London	53	167	31.7
Total	6,188,810	6,668,369	92.8

Standard Spending Assessments

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what is the area cost adjustment for each shire county for 1995–6 as a

Cost per pupil: Net institutional expenditure

Pre-Primary/Primary 1993–94

	£
Haringey	2,236
Wandsworth	2,139
Lewisham	2,058
Camden	2,047
Greenwich	2,009
Barnet	2,006
Hackney	1,958
Ealing	1,915
Harrow	1,913
Merton	1,853
Waltham Forest	1,821
Southwark	1,806
Hillingdon	1,804
Richmond upon Thames	1,794
Croydon	1,793
Barking	1,790
Hounslow	1,784
Enfield	1,768
Oxfordshire	1,765
Buckinghamshire	1,735
Kingston upon Thames	1,728
Essex	1,724
Rotherham	1,723
Newham	1,708
Surrey	1,701
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,697
Northumberland	1,686
Coventry	1,684
Sandwell	1,681
Suffolk	1,673
Walsall	1,672
Lancashire	1,669
Cumbria	1,667
Gateshead	1,664
Durham	1,664
Hertfordshire	1,664
Bradford	1,654
Nottinghamshire	1,653
Leeds	1,647
Oldham	1,645
East Sussex	1,643
Redbridge	1,640
Sutton	1,639
Bedfordshire	1,639
Havering	1,636
Brent	1,633
Leicestershire	1,629
Humberside	1,621
Hereford and Worcester	1,617
Calderdale	1,607
St. Helens	1,605
Derbyshire	1,600
Isle of Wight	1,598
Berkshire	1,592
Liverpool	1,586
Norfolk	1,585
Somerset	1,583
Hampshire	1,583
Bolton	1,581
Kirklees	1,579
West Sussex	1,579
Wakefield	1,577
Shropshire	1,577
Solihull	1,574
Sheffield	1,573
Bexley	1,573
Birmingham	1,572
Avon	1,571
North Yorkshire	1,555
Warwickshire	1,555
Wirral	1,552

Cost per pupil: Net institutional expenditure

Pre-Primary/Primary 1993–94

	£
Manchester	1,547
Barnsley	1,539
Cornwall	1,535
Staffordshire	1,534
Cambridgeshire	1,534
Bromley	1,525
Gloucestershire	1,523
Northamptonshire	1,522
Wiltshire	1,521
Sunderland	1,509
Salford	1,505
Devon	1,503
Lincolnshire	1,496
Dudley	1,490
Knowsley	1,485
Dorset	1,485
Cheshire	1,483
North Tyneside	1,469
Stockport	1,466
South Tyneside	1,463
Cleveland	1,461
Sefton	1,448
Tameside	1,442
Wigan	1,437
Bury	1,432
Trafford	1,428
Doncaster	1,425
Kent	1,397
Wolverhampton	1,357
Rochdale	1,307
Average	1,630

Cost per pupil: Net institutional expenditure

Secondary 1993–94

	£
Isles of Scilly	4,415
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,329
Lambeth	3,296
Kensington and Chelsea	3,266
Tower Hamlets	3,157
Haringey	3,041
Islington	3,005
Barnet	2,952
Wandsworth	2,795
City of Westminster	2,739
Camden	2,716
Hillingdon	2,670
Hackney	2,617
Lewisham	2,614
Liverpool	2,613
Greenwich	2,583
Ealing	2,575
Newham	2,563
Enfield	2,531
Waltham Forest	2,526
Redbridge	2,526
Coventry	2,469
West Sussex	2,467
Merton	2,463
Harrow	2,439
Southwark	2,421
Warwickshire	2,420
Nottinghamshire	2,381
Wiltshire	2,379
Barking	2,355
Shropshire	2,354
Sandwell	2,349
Lancashire	2,347

Cost per pupil: Net institutional expenditure

Secondary 1993–94

	£
Bexley	2,341
Birmingham	2,330
Manchester	2,328
Lincolnshire	2,322
St. Helens	2,315
Stockport	2,310
Croydon	2,309
Norfolk	2,309
Wolverhampton	2,300
Wirral	2,299
Havering	2,290
Avon	2,288
Buckinghamshire	2,286
Essex	2,286
Kingston upon Thames	2,284
Hounslow	2,282
Walsall	2,281
Bromley	2,280
Richmond upon Thames	2,280
Oldham	2,278
Rotherham	2,271
East Sussex	2,270
Leicestershire	2,263
Humberside	2,257
Gateshead	2,252
Hertfordshire	2,245
Knowsley	2,243
Solihull	2,217
Cumbria	2,216
Salford	2,215
Surrey	2,215
Derbyshire	2,214
Berkshire	2,214
Kirklees	2,207
Sefton	2,204
Oxfordshire	2,191
Suffolk	2,190
North Yorkshire	2,187
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,187
Hampshire	2,180
Leeds	2,164
Calderdale	2,162
Cornwall	2,160
Devon	2,157
Trafford	2,156
Wakefield	2,150
Wigan	2,141
Somerset	2,138
Cleveland	2,129
Northamptonshire	2,125
Bolton	2,119
Sheffield	2,119
Sunderland	2,114
Durham	2,114
Cheshire	2,106
Bedfordshire	2,103
Barnsley	2,101
Dudley	2,098
Tameside	2,095
Gloucestershire	2,084
Northumberland	2,083
Kent	2,079
Staffordshire	2,078
Dorset	2,065
Hereford and Worcester	2,038
Isle of Wight	2,027
Doncaster	2,022
North Tyneside	1,995
Bury	1,979
Sutton	1,978
Rochdale	1,974
Bradford	1,969
Cambridgeshire	1,956
South Tyneside	1,948
Brent	1,835
Corporation of London	0
Average	2,245

Cost per pupil: Net institutional expenditure

Secondary 1993–94

Special Education Needs (Asthma)

Ms Corston: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many children were given statements of special educational needs in the last five years for which figures are available; and how many of them were statemented because of asthma. [34528]

Mr. Forth: Information on the number of children with statements of special educational needs is contained in the table.

Information is not collected on the number of children who received statements because of asthma.

Total number of children with statements of special educational needs and number with new statements in England

Position in January each year

Survey year	*Total children with statements*	*New statements*[1]
1990[2]	142,618	24,898
1991	154,743	26,519
1992	165,095	30,847
1993(3)	176,698	34,037
1994[4]	192,308	38,292

[1] Children with statement made for the first time during the previous calendar year.

[2] Excludes Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth and Wandsworth.

[3] Excludes Leicestershire.

[4] Excludes Derbyshire.

Department of Employment (Sheffield Site)

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what guarantee she will give that staff employed at the former Department of Employment's Sheffield office will continue their work. [33519]

Mr. Robin Squire: It is expected that the Department will continue to operate from the Sheffield site, which performs a range of important functions.

Training

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what has been the number of Government-funded training for work placements, with title of scheme, each year since the introduction of the job creation programme. [34025]

Mr. Paice: The information is shown in the following table and covers all adult and youth programmes:

Number of adult and youth programme starts[1] for each financial year from 1978–79 to 1994–95

Great Britain, numbers

Year	Total for all programmes	Community Industry	Community programme[2]	Enterprise allowance/ business start-up[3]	Youth opportunities programme	Voluntary projects programme	Youth training[4,5]	Training opportunities programme[6]	Industrial language training scheme[7]	Occupational training[8]	Business training	Employment action
1978–79	258,800	6,700	19,700	—	162,200	—	—	70,200	.	—	—	—
1979–80	338,400	8,900	22,400	—	216,400	—	—	90,700	—	—	—	—
1980–81	469,200	8,200	18,400	—	360,000	—	—	82,600	—	—	—	—
1981–82	674,800	9,000	34,300	—	553,000	—	—	71,200	7,300	—	—	—
1982–83	655,900	8,900	12,100	2,500	543,100	—	—	72,600	8,900	—	—	—
1983–84	647,200	9,600	134,400	27,600	—	—	370,000	80,100	11,500	—	—	—
1984–85	797,000	9,500	161,400	46,000	—	63,000	397,000	—	11,300	58,200	6,500	—
1985–86	1,045,000	9,500	241,200	60,000	—	71,500	406,000	—	13,800	—	—	—
1986–87	1,358,500	9,800	307,500	86,800	—	80,300	420,000	—	19,300	—	—	—
1987–88	1,402,900	9,800	269,100	106,300	—	105,600	399,000	—	17,600	—	—	—
1988–89	1,263,500	10,800	84,000	98,500	—	88,200	408,000	—	17,200	—	—	—
1989–90	893,000	—	—	78,000	—	—	384,000	—	—	—	—	—
1990–91	797,000	—	—	60,000	—	—	347,800	—	—	—	—	—
1991–92	655,400	—	—	50,000	—	—	290,400	—	—	—	—	22,000
1992–93	686,000	—	—	41,000	—	—	286,700	—	—	—	—	67,000
1993–94	669,000	—	—	40,600	—	—	290,300	—	—	—	—	—
1994–95	655,900	—	—	31,200	—	—	303,700	—	—	—	—	—

Source:

Training Statistics.

Notes:

[1] Including second and subsequent starts.

[2] Includes Special Temporary Employment Programme (1978–79 to 1980–81). Community Enterprise Programme (1981–82) and Community Programme (1982–83 to 1988–89).

[3] EAS was replaced by BSUS in April 1991 BSUS is a TEC delivered programme based on local needs.

[4] YT/YTS figures may not correspond to earlier published figures due to periodical updating.

[5] From April 1990 YTS became YT.

Except for the following, all figures were obtained from the relevant Training Agency Branch/Section.

[6] Training Opportunities Programme (TOPS), up to 1979–80 from Annual Reports.

[7] Industrial Language Training Scheme (ILTS), figures prior to 1987–88 from Annual Reports. Figures prior to 1981–82 are not available separately. ILTS was part of Training Within Industry (TWI) which was part of TOPS and comprised several smaller schemes. The ILTS figure is therefore included in the TOPS total for these years.

[8] Occupational Training (OT), Business Training (BT) and Work Preparation (WP), figures from Annual Reports.

The Youth Opportunities Programme was split into two parts, Work Experience (WE) included in the figures are a) Work Experience on Employers Premises (WEEP), b) Community Projects (CP) and Work Preparation (WP) included in the figures are (a) Short training Courses, (b) Remedial and Preparatory Courses (mainly work induction courses and young people's work preparation courses) and c) Assessment and Employment Induction Courses.

Number of adult and youth programme starts[1] for each financial year from 1978–79 to 1994–95

Great Britain numbers

Year	Work preparation	Old job training scheme	New job training scheme	Training for Enterprise	Access to information technology	Local grants to employers	Self-standing work preparation	Training linked to community programme	Employment training/training for work	Open tech	National priority skills scheme[2]
1978–79	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1979–80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1980–81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1981–82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1982–83	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1983–84	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,800
1984–85	23,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,000	8,000
1985–86	—	54,800		20,300	28,200	53,300	34,300	3,100	—	12,000	6,000
1986–87	—	68,800	2,100	67,000	32,200	131,700	48,800	20,600	—	20,000	11,500
1987–88	—	49,200	99,100	107,000	22,100	123,500	46,200	42,900	—	33,000	8,300
1988–89	—	24,300	50,700	89,800	—	106,800	27,900	41,400	—	—	7,000
1989–90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,600	238,600	—	2,100
1990–91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	431,000	—	—
1991–92	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	389,000	—	—
1992–93	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	293,000	—	—
1993–94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	291,000	—	—
1994–95	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	338,400	—	—
									321,100	—	—

Source:

Training Statistics.

Note:

[1] Including second and subsequent starts.

[2] National Priority Skill Scheme; prior to 1986 figures are from Annual Reports. The figure for 1984 has been estimated.

The Youth Opportunities Programme was split into two parts.

Work Experience (WE): included in the figures are a) Work Experience on Employers Premises (WEEP).b) Community Projects (CP) and Work Preparation (WP): included in the figures are a) Short Training Courses, b) Remedial and Preparatory Courses (mainly work induction courses and young people's work preparation courses) and c) Assessment and Employment Induction Courses.

Sir Peter Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will provide incentives to training and enterprise councils to encourage firms of under 50 employees to commit themselves to investment in people programmes. [34727]

Mr. Paice: Training and enterprise councils have some £55 million available in 1995–95 to help employers to move towards investors in people. Employers normally need to contribute to the cost on a matched funding basis but TECs have the discretion to exempt those with under 50 employees from this requirement. Almost 9,000 firms with under 50 employees are formally committed to achieving the investors in people standard. I will be considering proposals for performance targets for TECs for 1995–96 during the autumn.

The Department has other provisions aimed specifically at training in small firms. Over three years from April 1995, £63 million is available through skills for small businesses to help 24,000 key workers in small firms to become training champions and train others in their firms.

The competitiveness White Paper "Forging ahead", published in May 1995, includes £5 million for the small firms training challenge. A prospectus will be published shortly, seeking bids from group of small firms.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what consideration she has given to the introduction of a training levy; and if she will make a statement. [34952]

Mr. Paice: The introduction of a general training levy is not under consideration. The Government remain committed to deregulation—removed burdens on firms, not increasing them.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will make a statement on the achievements of *(a)* her policies and *(b)* her Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if she will publish the performance indicators by which her Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34704]

Mr. Paice: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the UK economy. Effective human resource management is crucial to the success of small firms. The Department funds training and enterprise councils to improve their commitment to developing their people through a range of measures.

The numbers of organisations that have reached the investors in people standard are:

	May 1994	*May 1995*
Firms with less than 200 employees	613	1,394
Firms with less than 50 employees	371	850

Materials are available to help small firms achieve the standard. Over 8,000 organisations with less than 50 employees have made a formal commitment to achieving the standard.

The small firms training loans scheme was introduced last year. Some 1,500 loans are forecast this year.

Over three years from April 1995, skills for small businesses will equip 24,000 key workers in small firms to train others in their firms and to help other small firms. In piloting the initiative, more than 50 firms were helped to train key workers.

The competitiveness White Paper "Forging Ahead" outlined a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector. This includes £5 million for the small firms training challenge. The aim is to involve directly at least 1,000 small firms in exemplary projects. A prospectus will be published shortly, seeking bids from groups of small firms.

The small firms lead body, supported by the Department, has been developing standards and qualifications appropriate to small businesses.

In addition to these specific measures, large numbers of small firms continue to take part in other training initiatives such as modern apprenticeships, youth training and training for work.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will list the number of *(a)* total and *(b)* voluntary redundancies occurring in (i) the Department for Education and (ii) the Department of Employment over the last 12 months; and what was the amount of money spent on these redundancy payments. [34580]

Mr. Robin Squire *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* There have been no redundancies in either the Department for Education or the Employment Department over the last 12 months.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against *(a)* the Department for Education and *(b)* the Department of Employment over the last 12 months; how many cases were successful; and what were the total costs, both in legal fees and compensation. [34578]

Mr. Robin Squire *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* None and 29 respectively. No cases were successful. The total legal costs incurred were £22,554.47

Sickness Absence

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many sickness days were lost by employees of *(a)* the Department for Education and *(b)* the Department of Employment over the last 12 months, both in total and as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34579]

Mr. Robin Squire *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* Information is not readily available in the form requested. The total number of working days lost to sickness during 1994 by employees of the Department for Education was 13,926, or 3.46 per cent. of the working days available. The total number of days lost to employees of the Employment Department for the 12 months up to the end

of March were 636,709, or 4.8 per cent. of the total number of working days available.

The cost of this absence could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Part-time Students

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what action she is taking to ensure that students under 19 years attending further education courses part time will be adequately funded. [35064]

Mr. Paice: Last month, the former Employment Department and Department for Education, together with the Training and Enterprise Council National Council and the Further Education Funding Council, issued joint guidance to interested parties on their respective funding responsibilities for part-time students. I will arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what steps she is taking to ensure that part-time students with learning difficulties are not disadvantaged by undertaking non-national vocational qualification programmes under the training credits scheme. [35063]

Mr. Paice: Youth credits provide access to youth training, which supports young people with learning difficulties in making progress towards qualifications agreed in an individual training plan and tailored to their individual needs. Additional support is provided to help both full and part-time trainees achieve their agreed training aim.

Young People Leaving Care (Support Services)

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what specific support services are made available by her Department for young people leaving care. [35013]

Mr. Paice: The Department works closely with the Department of Health to promote effective support to young people leaving care. There are specific provisions for this group in entitlement to income support and to youth training. Career services provide support for all young people, including those leaving care, in making informed career choices.

Actively Seeking Employment (Warning Letters)

Mr. Chidgey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1) if a warning letter in respect of actively seeking employment is normally issued before a benefit disqualification; [33558]

(2) in what circumstances a warning letter in respect of actively seeking employment will be issued. [33559]

Mr. Forth: Responsibility for the subject of the questions has been delegated to the Employment Service agency under its chief executive. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from D. Grover to Mr. David Chidgey, dated 17 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked me, in the absence of the Chief Executive, to reply to your questions concerning the issue of warning letters in respect of actively seeking employment.

A warning letter in respect of actively seeking employment is not normally issued before a claim is referred for an adjudication decision. A warning letter is issued only when it is clear that a client has genuinely misunderstood what is expected of them and is in need of further advice on the requirement to actively seek employment.

I hope this is helpful.

Career Development Loans

Mr. Pearson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what representations she has received on the refusal of banks to consider career development loans applications until six weeks before the start of training or education; and if she will make a statement. [34123]

Mr. Paice: The Department has not received any representations concerning any refusal of career development loan lending banks to consider applications until six weeks before the start of training or education. There is no policy to impose any time limit on consideration of loan applications. As CDL literature clearly points out, prospective applicants are advised to apply well in advance of the course start date as it may take two or three weeks before the banks are able to make a decision. Although CDL funds cannot be released more than one month in advance of the course start date, the banks can consider applications at any time. In cases where they consider an application more than one month before the course start date, the banks may ask the applicant to confirm that his details remain the same prior to the release of funds.

Department of Employment Staff

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many staff employed in the former Department of Employment will as a result of that Department's abolition, *(a)* be made redundant, *(b)* take early retirement, *(c)* be employed on a temporary contract instead of a permanent contract and *(d)* be employed on a part-time basis instead of a full-time basis; and if she will make a statement. [34660]

Mr. Robin Squire: The functions carried out by the former Employment Department will continue in the Departments to which they have been transferred. There may be some scope for rationalisation as a result of these changes but it is too soon to say what the effect will be. Our aim will be, if possible, to avoid compulsory redundancies, in the same way as the former Employment Department has achieved a reduction of over 4,000 staff in the last two years without compulsory redundancies.

Department of Employment Programmes

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment which programmes formerly undertaken by the Department of Employment have been transferred to other Departments; and which have been dropped. [34668]

Mrs. Gillian Shephard: The main responsibilities transferring from the former Employment Department to other Departments are:

industrial relations policy and legislation, pay issues, redundancy payments, administration of industrial tribunals and sponsorship of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to the Department of Trade and Industry;

health and safety at work, including the Health and Safety Commission and Executive to the Department of the Environment;

employment statistics and labour market surveys to the Central Statistical Office.

All other functions of the former Employment Department including employment, training, labour market and equal opportunities will be undertaken by the newly created Department for Education and Employment.

Access to Work Scheme

Mr. Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1) how many applications have been made for each element of assistance under the access to work scheme since June 1994; and how many and what proportion of these were successful; [34384]

(2) what is the average amount paid under the access to work scheme *(a)* per applicant, *(b)* per element of assistance and *(c)* per region; [34385]

(3) how many and what proportion of applicants refused assistance under the access to work scheme have subsequently appealed against this refusal; and what are the outcomes; [34386]

(4) what is the average period between an application for assistance under the access to work scheme and the provision of assistance; [34387]

(5) how many and what proportion of applicants for access to work have been from *(a)* people in employment, *(b)* people in self-employment and *(c)* people signing on as unemployed. [34388]

Mr. Forth: Responsibility for the subject of the questions has been delegated to the Employment Service agency under its chief executive. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from R. M. Phillips to Mr. Roger Berry, dated 17 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked me, in the absence of the Chief Executive, to reply to your questions about the Access to Work programme.

The Access to Work programme was introduced in June 1994 to provide support to help disabled people overcome work-related obstacles caused by their disability so that they are able to compete for jobs and perform at work on an equal basis with non-disabled people.

Provisional figures for the period 6 June 1994 to 31 March 1995 show that the number of items approved under each element is as follows—

	Number
Special aids and equipment	10,614
Adaptations to premises	111
Personal reader service	215
Assistance with fares to work	1,418
Communicator support at interview	288
Support worker assistance	432
Adaptations to vehicles	94
Miscellaneous items of support	289

Some disabled people will have received more than one element of assistance in the period. The personal reader support and assistance with fares to work figures do not include those disabled people who received support under transitional arrangements from previous schemes and did not transfer to Access to Work until April 1995.

Statistics are not held centrally for the number of applications that were turned down in the period. However, we are currently undertaking a review of Access to Work and research to support the review will examine in detail the operation of the programme. A report of the research will be published in the normal way.

The average cost per item of support and per Region is listed in the following table.

Average cost per application by item

	£
Assisted fares to work	1,845
Adaptations to premises	5,897
Adaptations to vehicles	1,212
Communicator support	169
Miscellaneous	403
Personal reader service	5,857
Special aids and equipment	1,008
Support workers	497

Average cost by region

Region	*Spend* £	*Beneficiaries*	*Average cost* £
Northern	729,133	433	1,684
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,470,175	890	1,652
East Midlands	1,633,242	978	1,670
London and South East	4,370,219	2,126	2,056
South West	1,324,317	874	1,515
Wales	664,951	517	1,286
West Midlands	1,560,407	1,061	1,471
North West	1,546,114	1,275	1,213
Scotland	1,116,383	835	1,337
Total	14,414,941	8,989	1,604

These figures do not include support for 922 disabled people on transitional arrangements from the Personal Reader Scheme, which were dealt with by Head Office and are not appropriate to the Regional figure.

Provisional figures for the year beginning April 1994 show that the average cost of support per application was £1,570 (includes the transitional cases).

Placing, Assessment and Counselling Team (PACT) managers are responsible for monitoring the operation of Access to Work and therefore the detail of other information you asked for is not currently held centrally. However, the review and research mentioned earlier will give information in these areas. A report of the research will be published in the normal way.

You may be interested to learn that three Employment Service Regions are piloting a formal operating agreement in which specific standards are set. The suggested standards are:

PACT to complete within 3 weeks of application an action plan for 80% of applicants;

PACTs to order within 2 weeks of completion of the action plan the agreed goods or services for 80% of all applicants;

PACTs to follow up all cases where goods or services are not delivered within one month of completion of order;

PACTs to follow up, by visit or telephone, 95% of applicants within 3 months of the delivery of the goods or services.

Our intention is to extend this operating agreement to all Regions for the 1996/7 operating year, subject to the experience of the pilots.

I hope this is helpful.

Employment Service

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will make a statement about the future of the Employment Service. [34626]

Mr. Forth: A prior options review of the Employment Service was completed in March this year. This concluded that the agency has significantly improved its performance since 1990; that it has a very important part to play in the effective operation of the labour market; and that it will perform a crucial role in implementing the jobseeker's allowance, which will be introduced next year. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Colchester, South and Maldon (Mr. Whittingdale) on 29 March 1995, *Official Report*, columns *641-42*, by my right hon. Friend the former Secretary of State for Employment. This set out the Government's response to the review in full and confirmed the agency status of the ES.

The ES, as part of the Department for Education and Employment, will provide as key element in our policies to improve competitiveness relating to the work force. By bringing together active labour market policy, education and training into one Department, we will build on the achievements in recent years which have helped to reduce unemployment.

Jobfinder's Grants

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many jobfinder's grants have been awarded since its introduction in April *(a)* nationally and *(b)* by region; what is the average level of wage received and hours worked by each recipient of a grant; and what is the lowest level of wage rate per hour. [34808]

Mr. Forth: Responsibility for the subject of the question has been delegated to the Employment Service agency under its chief executive. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from M. E. G. Fogden to Mr. Stephen Byers, dated 17 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about Jobfinder's Grants.

Jobfinder's Grant are one off payments, available to assist people who have been unemployed for over two years to return to work. The following table shows the number of Jobfinder's Grants awarded nationally and by Employment Service Region since the programme was introduced on 18 April (22 May in Yorkshire and Humberside Region, where a more flexible variant to the programme is being piloted) up to 7 July, the latest date for which figures are available.

Jobfinder's grant

	Grants awarded (up to 7 July)
National total	1,898
London and South East	234
South West	175
Wales	115
West Midlands	295
North West	285
Scotland	149
Northern	163
Yorkshire and Humberside	92
East Midlands and Easter	390

Information on the average level of wage received and hours worked by recipients is not available. The programme is designed to help very long term unemployed people overcome financial difficulties that could deter them from taking relatively low paid jobs. Checks are made that the gross pay in each case is below the specified upper limit of £150 per week (£250 per week in Yorkshire and Humberside Region).

I hope this is helpful.

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment to which Department the staff investigating benefit fraud have been allocated following the abolition of the Department of Employment. [35217]

Mr. Forth: Investigations of benefit fraud remains a responsibility of the Employment Service, which has transferred to the new Department for Education and Employment. This position is currently under review and an announcement will be made shortly.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Maxwell Pensioners

12. **Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if the pensions of the Maxwell pensioners are now secure. [32775]

Mr. Heald: The £276 million Maxwell settlement achieved in March has secured the position of the overwhelming majority of Maxwell pensioners. This successful outcome has been made possible by the measures taken by the Government and Sir John Cuckney's exceptional work in arranging the settlement.

Income Support

13. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people over retirement age he estimates are currently not taking up income support payments to which they are entitled. [32776]

Mr. Roger Evans: The latest estimate is that between 480,000 and 860,000 people over 60 who were entitled to income support did not take this up. This estimate is subject to the limitations of the survey data on which it is based.

The most recent estimates of income-related benefits take-up were published on 20 January 1995 and are for the year 1992.

Social Security Reforms

14. **Mr. Rowe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what assessment he has made of the long-term effect on public spending of the social security reforms he has announced so far. [32777]

Mr. Lilley: Long-term savings from reforms announced so far will amount to £14 billion a year.

Personal Pensions

15. **Mr. Booth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will take steps to make personal pensions more attractive for more people. [32778]

Mr. Heald: The Pensions Bill, which has just completed its passage through Parliament, fulfils an election pledge to make personal pensions attractive across a broader age range. It makes it worthwhile for most current personal pension holders to maintain a personal pension throughout their working life.

Order Book Fraud

16. **Mr. Dunn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what measures he is taking to reduce order book fraud. [32779]

Mr. Lilley: I have recently announced a comprehensive programme of activities, which combine to secure the benefit system through increased accuracy and control and greatly reduced opportunities for abuse. The programme will virtually eliminate all instrument of payment fraud.

My Department takes order book fraud very seriously. Our investigators are increasingly effective at detecting and stopping fraud in this area. We will continue to bear down on fraud and abuse through increased use of information technology; more secure payment methods; and a robust system of verification for claims and payments.

Housing Benefit

17. **Mr. Pike:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the total number of people in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* council housing, *(b)* housing association properties and *(c)* the private rented sector. [32780]

Mr. Roger Evans: At the latest count in February 1995, the total number of people in receipt of housing benefit was 2,991,210 in council housing; 587,570 in housing association properties and 1,158, 990 in the private rented sector.

The information requested is set out in the table.

	Local authority	*Housing association*	*Other private*
February 1995	2,991,210	587,570	1,158,990

Source:
Housing benefit management information system quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock count.

Means-tested Benefits

18. **Mr. Robert Ainsworth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people he estimates will have to draw means-tested benefits as a result of the introduction of the jobseeker's allowance and incapacity benefit. [32782]

Mr. Roger Evans: We estimate that, at any one time, 75,000 claimants of income-based jobseeker's allowance would have been receiving unemployment benefit but not income support. A further 10,000 people would be entitled to council tax benefit because of the jobseeker's allowance changes.

For incapacity benefit, we estimate that throughout its first year 240,000 people on average will receive both IB and income support; and that IS will be paid on average to 35,000 people excluded from IB as a result of the new medical test.

Disability

19. **Sir Michael Marshall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what representations he has received about the steps he is taking to reduce discrimination against disabled people. [32783]

Mr. Burt: The comprehensive measures in the Disability Discrimination Bill were drawn up following wide-ranging consultation. Throughout the development of the Bill's measures, my predecessor and officials have maintained continuing communication with business and employers' groups as well as with organisations of and for disabled people.

These widely welcomed measures prove the Government's commitment to end discrimination against disabled people.

Compensation Recovery Unit

Mr. Jon Owen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how much had been recovered by the compensation recovery unit in the latest year for which figures are available. [32784]

26. **Mr. Hutton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will make a statement about the operation of the compensation recovery unit. [32790]

Mr. Roger Evans: The compensation recovery unit was set up in 1990 to shift the advantage of recovery to the taxpayer who lost out to the insurer under the old scheme. Just over £110 million was recovered by the unit in 1994–95—over £31 million from April to June 1995.

State Pension

21. **Mr. Roy Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what recent consideration he has given to the method of assessment of the state pension. [32785]

Mr. Heald: The state pension is uprated each year in line with prices, this reflects the commitment to increase all major benefits in line with inflation and is fully in line with the Government's commitment to help those in greatest need.

Claimants' Partners (Working Hours)

22. **Mr. Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security whether partners of unemployed benefit claimants will be able to work for up to 24 hours a week without losing entitlement to benefit. [32786]

Mr. Roger Evans: Yes. From October 1996, we are increasing the number of hours which partners of income-based jobseeker's allowance claimants will be able to work from 16 to 24 hours a week. The number of hours a claimant's partner works will have no affect on entitlement to contribution-based jobseeker's allowance.

Benefits Payments (Post Office)

23. **Mr. Hawkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what plans he has in respect of pensioners being able to choose to have their benefits paid through the Post Office. [32787]

Mr. Lilley: Pensioners will continue to be able to choose to have their benefits paid directly into their bank or building society accounts by automated credit transfer, or to collect it at the post office.

Plans to automate the system for paying benefit at post offices are well advanced. For customers, this will mean that order books and giros are replaced with a benefit payment card. Starting next year, this change is likely to be phased in over a period of two to three years. Pensioners and other benefit recipients will be informed of what is happening, and exactly what they will need to do, nearer the time when cards are to be issued to them. People who choose to be paid by automated credit transfer will not be affected by this change and will not need a benefit payment card.

Pensioner Incomes

24. **Mr. Waterson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what proportion of pensioners had incomes in the top half of the national income distribution in 1979 and in the last year for which figures are available. [32788]

Mr. Heald: In 1979, 23 per cent. of pensioners in the United Kingdom were in the top half of the income distribution before housing costs and 25 per cent. after housing costs. By 1992–93 these figures had increased to 30 per cent. and 35 per cent. respectively.

Child Support Agency

25. **Mr. Mike O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is his policy to reduce delays in processing inquiries by both the public and hon. Members about the Child Support Agency. [32789]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The processing of inquiries from both the public and from hon. Members is a matter of high priority. The agency has channelled additional resources into this area and has made considerable progress in eliminating delays. A number of hon. Members have commented on a noticeable improvement in both the speed and the quality of replies which they receive.

Occupational Pensions

27. **Dr. Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what steps he is taking to improve the regulation of occupational pensions. [32791]

Mr. Heald: The Pensions Bill has completed its passage through Parliament. It will greatly improve the regulation of occupational pensions without imposing undue costs on employers or schemes. It provides a clear framework of statutory obligations on employers, trustees, scheme professionals and others involved with occupational pensions and underlines the fact that it is the trustees who are responsible for running schemes. It establishes a statutory minimum funding requirement to ensure the adequacy of pension fund assets, an occupational pensions regulatory authority with robust and wide-ranging powers, and a compensation scheme to cover the loss of funds dishonestly removed.

These measures will increase confidence in occupational pension schemes and thus encourage people to build funded pension provision for their retirement.

Family Credit

28. **Mr. Jacques Arnold:** To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what recent modifications he has made to family credit. [32792]

Mr. Roger Evans: From today, there will be a £10 increase in family credit for people working 30 hours or more a week. We estimate that 345,000 families will benefit from this increase, which will ensure that those working longer hours see a visible gain from their extra effort. This very substantial premium for full-time workers reflects the importance the Government attach to supporting families in work. Claimants who receive housing benefit and council tax benefit will receive the full value of the increase.

Claimant Education and Training

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what steps he is taking to ensure that the benefits system positively encourages claimants to improve their education and training skills. [32772]

Mr. Burt: The benefit rules allow people to improve their education and training skills. For example, people claiming unemployment benefits may study part time, as long as they remain available for and actively seek employment.

Compensation (Absent Parents)

Ms Corston: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will make it his policy to pay compensation to men who, through mistaken identity or maladministration, receive maintenance inquiry forms or other communications from the Child Support Agency in respect of children of whom they are not the father; and if he will make a statement. [31521]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The Government do not accept that financial compensation should be paid in all cases to those incorrectly identified by the Child Support Agency as an alleged absent parent. However, the Child Support Agency can and does make ex-gratia payments to reimburse individuals who have incurred expenses as a result of having to correct the agency's error of identification. Requests for compensation are considered on their merits.

Funds

Mr. Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what percentage of the population receives funds from his Department; and what was the percentage in *(a)* 1970, *(b)* 1980 and *(c)* 1990. [32950]

Mr. Burt: The information is not available in the form requested.

Family Credit

Ms Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what are the latest figures for take-up of the new child care disregards in family credit for *(a)* all families and *(b)* one-parent families, (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of potential claimants. [33475]

Mr. Roger Evans: At 30 June this year, a total of 19,460 families had received higher family credit awards as a result of the help with child care charges. Of these, 18,680 were lone parents and 780 were couples. These figures do not include renewal claims from families who received the help in their previous family credit award.

No information about take-up among potential claimants is available at this stage. However, it is estimated that, in the long term, 150,000 families will benefit from the new help.

Source

Five per cent. sample of family credit awards made between 1 October 1994 and 30 June 1995. These figures do not include claims made by 30 June but decided after that date.

Regional Benefit Rates

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what plans he has to introduce regional rates of unemployment and other benefits; and if he will make a statement. [34280]

Mr. Roger Evans: We have no such plans.

Disability Discrimination Bill

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) which Secretary of State will appoint members of the National Disability Council under schedule 4 to the Disability Discrimination Bill; [34050]

(2) which Secretary of State the National Disability Council will advise under clause 34 of the Disability Discrimination Bill; [34047]

(3) which Secretary of State will make arrangements for advice and assistance under clause 23 of the Disability Discrimination Bill. [34053]

Mr. Burt: The Secretary of State for Social Security.

Mr. Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) which Secretary of State will review clause 8 of the Disability Discrimination Bill; [34052]

(2) which Secretary of State shall issue codes of practice under clause 37 of the Disability Discrimination Bill. [34049]

Mr. Burt: The Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

Mr. Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security which Secretary of State will request codes of practice from the National Disability Council under clause 35 of the Disability Discrimination Bill. [34048]

Mr. Burt: The Secretary of State for Social Security, after consultation with other Secretaries of State with an interest in the area to which the request relates.

Mr. Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security which Secretary of State will issue guidance under clause 3 of the Disability Discrimination Bill. [34051]

Mr. Burt: The Secretary of State for Social Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

Back-to-work Bonus

Mr. Nigel Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what plans he has to include a back-to-work bonus in his reforms of the unemployment benefits. [32781]

Mr. Lilley: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Monmouth (Mr. Evans), on 13 June *Official Report*, column 494.

Pensioner Households

Sir Andrew Bowden: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what are the percentage and number of one adult pensioner households who are mainly dependent on state pensions and benefits. [34824]

Mr. Heald: It is estimated that there are 2.5 million one adult pensioner households who are [1]mainly dependent on state benefits. This represents 74 per cent. of the total population of one adult pensioner households.

Source:

"Family Expenditure Survey", 1990–91 and 1992. Census figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 1991

[1] Figures represent those whose income comprises 50 per cent. or more of state benefits.

Retirement Pension

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was his most recent estimate of the average sum paid to *(a)* female pensioners and *(b)* male pensioners over their period of entitlement; and if he will make a statement. [33086]

Mr. Heald: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Income Support

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) what provision has been made for a trawl of overlooked cases regarding entitlement to severe disability premium; and if he will make a statement; [33820]

(2) how many cases where severe disability premium should have been paid from an earlier date have been identified; what is the total figure in backdated income support payments made to these individuals and what is the average payment; what steps have been taken to ensure compensation payments are made to these individuals; and how much has been paid and what is the average amount. [33821]

Mr. Roger Evans: The administration of income support is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Peter L. Pike, dated 14 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the provisions which have been made for a trawl of overlooked cases regarding entitlement to severe disability premium (SDP), the number of cases where arrears of SDP have been paid and details of compensation in these cases.

A scan of the Income Support Computer System was undertaken over the weekend of 19/20 November 1994 and cases with potential entitlement to SDP were identified. Benefits Agency offices are currently examining the selected cases to identify those where an award of the SDP may have been overlooked and to pay arrears if appropriate.

At the end of the exercise we will be able to provide an estimate of the number of cases involved and the amount of arrears paid. This will be based on a statistical sample taken from 26 offices within 25 Districts.

Appropriate compensation will be considered on a case by case basis.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people have been refused income support after failing the habitual residence test since its introduction in the Euston district office of Glasgow in each month since the test's introduction in August 1994; how many appeals have been lodged against the decision in each month since August 1994; and how many appeals have been won in each month. [33295]

Mr. Evans: The administration of income support is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Jeremy Corbyn, dated 14 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the operation of the habitual residence test (HRT) for Income Support customers of the Benefits Agency (BA) District Office in Euston.

I have attached, at Annex A, a table giving details of the number of people from Euston District Office who have failed the HRT for each month from August 1994—June 1995.

The BA does not routinely collect information about the number of HRT appeals nor the decisions of the Social Security Appeal Tribunal on these appeals. The information you requested, therefore, could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Annex A: Habitual residence test

Euston	*August 1994*	*September 1994*	*October 1994*	*November 1994*	*December 1994*	*January 1995*	*February 1995*	*March 1995*	*April 1995*	*May 1995*	*June 1995*
HRT EEA fail	133	217	279	197	85	129	122	102	46	49	58
HRT UK fail	19	54	52	53	21	33	36	15	14	36	34
HRT other fail	165	367	382	385	347	455	132	76	50	70	51

EEA—European Economic Area. UK—United Kingdom.

Data are provisional and are subject to amendment.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 18 July 1995

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Visits

10. **Mr. Dunn:** To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to visit Dartford. [33187]

The Prime Minister: I have at present no plans to do so.

Cabinet Committees

Dr. Twinn: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has any plans to change the current membership and terms of reference of Cabinet Committees. [36165]

The Prime Minister: I have decided to make a number of changes designed to streamline the current structure and rationalise the arrangement for discussion of policy issues into a smaller number of Committees with wide terms of reference. The full list of Cabinet Committees, including membership and terms of reference, is listed as follows:

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND DOMESTIC POLICY (EDP)

Composition

Prime Minister (Chairman)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for the Home Department

President of the Board of Trade

Lord President of the Council

Secretary of State for the Environment

Chief Secretary, Treasury

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Minister without Portfolio

Secretary of State for Scotland

Secretary of State for Wales

Other Ministers are invited to attend for items in which they have a departmental interest.

Terms of reference

"To consider strategic issues relating to the Government's economic and domestic policies"

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND OVERSEAS POLICY (OPD)

Composition

Prime Minister (Chairman)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

President of the Board of Trade

Secretary of State for Defence

Attorney General

The Lord Privy Seal and the Lord President also receive papers and they and other Ministers may be invited to attend as necessary.

The Chief of Defence Staff will attend as required, as will the Chiefs of Staff when necessary.

Others, including the Governor of Hong Kong and the British Ambassador in Peking may be invited to attend as appropriate.

Terms of Reference

"To keep under review the Government's defence and overseas policy."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR DEFENCE POLICY (OPDN)

Composition

Prime Minister (Chairman)

First Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Secretary of State for Defence

Terms of Reference

"To keep under review the Government's policy on nuclear defence."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN IRELAND (NI)

Composition

Prime Minister (Chairman)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Lord Privy Seal

Secretary of State for Defence

Attorney General

The Minister without Portfolio receives papers.

Other Ministers are invited to attend as the nature of the business requires.

Terms of Reference

"To oversee the Government's policy on Northern Ireland issues and relations with the Republic of Ireland on these matters."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES (IS)

Composition

Prime Minister (Chairman)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Secretary of State for Defence

The Lord President of the Council and the Attorney General may be invited to attend as appropriate.

Terms of reference

"To keep under review policy on the security and intelligence services."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON COMPETITIVENESS (EDC)

Composition

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State (Chairman)

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for the Home Department

President of the Board of Trade

Lord President of the Council

Secretary of State for the Environment

Secretary of State for Social Security

Chief Secretary, Treasury
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Secretary of State for National Heritage
Secretary of State for Education and Employment
Minister without Portfolio
Secretary of State for Health
Lord Privy Seal
Secretary of State for Transport
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Secretary of State for Scotland
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Secretary of State for Wales

Other Ministers are invited to attend for items in which they have a departmental interest.

The Chief Scientific Adviser attends for issues relating to science and technology.

Terms of reference

"To consider issues affecting the UK's competitiveness, and other industrial, commercial, consumer, competition and regeneration policies; policy on science and technology; the pace of deregulation; and the handling of public sector pay."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THE COORDINATION AND PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY (EDCP)

Composition

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State (Chairman)
Lord President of the Council
Minister without Portfolio
Lord Privy Seal
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

Other Ministers will be invited to attend when necessary.

Terms of reference

"To consider the coordination and presentation of Government policy."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (EDE)

Composition

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State (Chairman)
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
President of the Board of Trade
Lord President of the Council
Secretary of State for the Environment
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Secretary of State for National Heritage
Secretary of State for Health
Lord Privy Seal
Secretary of State for Transport
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Wales

The Minister without Portfolio also receives papers.

Terms of reference

"To consider questions of environmental policy."

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON HOME AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (EDH)

Composition

Lord President of the Council (Chairman)
Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State
Lord Chancellor
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for the Home Department
President of the Board of Trade
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Social Security
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Secretary of State for National Heritage
Secretary of State for Education and Employment
Minister without Portfolio
Secretary of State for Health
Lord Privy Seal
Secretary of State for Transport
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Secretary of State for Scotland
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Secretary of State for Wales
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

The Attorney General, the Lord Advocate and the Captain of the Gentlemen at Arms also receive papers and are invited to attend as necessary.

Terms of reference

"To consider home and social policy issues"

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EDL)

Composition

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State (Chairman)
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for the Home Department
President of the Board of Trade
Lord President of the Council
Secretary of State for the Environment
Secretary of State for Social Security
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Secretary of State for National Heritage
Secretary of State for Education and Employment
Minister without Portfolio
Secretary of State for Health
Lord Privy Seal
Secretary of State for Transport
Secretary of State for Scotland
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Secretary of State for Wales
Minister of State, Department of the Environment (Minister for Local Government, Housing and Urban Regeneration)

Terms of reference

"To consider issues affecting local government, including the annual allocation of resources"

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE (EDX)

Composition

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Chairman)
Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State
Secretary of State for the Home Department
President of the Board of Trade
Lord President of the Council
Chief Secretary, Treasury
Lord Privy Seal

The Minister without Portfolio also receives papers.

Terms of Reference

"To consider the allocation of the public expenditure control totals and make recommendations to the Cabinet"

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES AND FUTURE LEGISLATION (FLG)

Composition

Lord President of the Council (Chairman)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Lord Chancellor

Minister without Portfolio

Lord Privy Seal

Attorney General

Lord Advocate

Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

Financial Secretary, Treasury

Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs may be invited to attend or be represented for discussion of The Queen's Speeches.

Terms of reference

"To prepare and submit to the Cabinet drafts of The Queen's Speeches to Parliament, and proposals for the Government's legislative programme for each Session of Parliament".

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION (LG)

Composition

Lord President of the Council (Chairman)

Lord Chancellor

Lord Privy Seal

Secretary of State for Scotland

Secretary of State for Wales

Attorney General

Lord Advocate

Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Minister of State, Home Office

Financial Secretary, Treasury

Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service

Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland also receives papers and is invited to attend as necessary.

Terms of reference

"To examine all draft Bills; to consider the Parliamentary handling of Government Bills, European Community documents and Private Members' business, and such other related matters as may be necessary; and to keep under review the Government's policy in relation to issues of Parliamentary procedures".

MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON HEALTH STRATEGY (EDH(H))

Composition

Lord President of the Council (Chairman)

President of the Board of Trade

Secretary of State for the Environment

Secretary of State for Social Security

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Secretary of State for Health

Secretary of State for Transport

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Secretary of State for Scotland

Secretary of State for Wales

Minister of State, Home Office

Paymaster General

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of National Heritage

The Chief Medical Officer is in attendance.

The Minister without Portfolio also receives papers.

Terms of reference

"To oversee the development, implementation and monitoring of the Government's health strategy, to coordinate the Government's policies on United Kingdom-wide issues affecting health, and report as necessary to the Ministerial Committee on Home and Social Affairs"

MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN QUESTIONS (OPD(E))

Composition

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chairman)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for the Home Department

President of the Board of Trade

Lord President of the Council

Secretary of State for the Environment

Chief Secretary, Treasury

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Secretary of State for Defence

Minister without Portfolio

Lord Privy Seal

Secretary of State for Transport

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Secretary of State for Scotland

Secretary of State for Wales

Attorney General

Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Lord Advocate also receives papers. He and other Ministers will be invited to attend as the nature of the business requires.

The United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the European Union is also in attendance.

Terms of reference

"To consider questions relating to the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union and to report as necessary to the Ministerial Committee on Defence and Overseas Policy".

MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM (OPD(T))

Composition

Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chairman)

Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

President of the Board of Trade

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Secretary of State for Defence

Secretary of State for Transport

Secretary of State for Scotland

Attorney General

Terms of Reference

"To keep under review the arrangements for countering terrorism and for dealing with terrorist incidents and their consequences and to report as necessary to the Ministerial Committee on Defence and Overseas Policy."

MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON DRUG MISUSE (EDH(D))

Composition

Lord President of the Council (Chairman)

Solicitor General

Minister of State, Home Office

Paymaster General

Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence

Minister of State, Scottish Office

Minister of State, Department for Education and Employment

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Welsh Office

Others, including the Minister for Overseas Development and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State from the Department of the Environment, may be invited to attend as appropriate and receive all papers.

Terms of reference

"To coordinate the Government's national and international policies for tackling drugs misuse, and report as necessary to the Ministerial Committee on Home and Social Affairs"

MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES (EDH(W))

Composition

Lord President of the Council (Chairman)

Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Minister of State, Home Office

Paymaster General

Minister of State, Department of the Environment (Minister for Construction and Planning)

Minister of State, Scottish Office

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Employment

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office

Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Social Security

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Transport

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Welsh Office

The Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence, and the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, also receive papers and may be invited to attend as necessary.

The Minister without Portfolio also receives papers.

Terms of Reference

"To review and develop the Government's policy and strategy on issues of special concern to women: to oversee their implementation; and to report as necessary to the Ministerial Committee on Home and Social Affairs".

MINISTERIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON LONDON (EDL(L))

Composition

Secretary of State for the Environment (Chairman)

Minister without Portfolio

Minister of State, Home Office

Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry (Minister for Industry and Energy)

Minister of State, Department of Health (Minister for Health)

Economic Secretary, Treasury

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Employment

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of National Heritage

Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Social Security

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Transport (Minister for Transport in London)

Terms of reference

"To coordinate the Government's policies on London"

Celebration (4 July)

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Prime Minister what was the cost to public funds for the celebrations held on the evening of 4 July at No. 10 Downing street. [35018]

The Prime Minister: Any additional costs to the public purse were de minimis and, in accordance with long-standing practice, no charge will be levied.

Sir Peter Levene

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Prime Minister whether there will be any changes in the responsibilities of his efficiency adviser, Sir Peter Levene, following the recent reallocation of certain ministerial responsibilities. [36164]

The Prime Minister: Sir Peter Levene will continue to fulfil his responsibilities as efficiency adviser to the Prime Minister. In addition to this role, Sir Peter will also advise the Deputy Prime Minister on his responsibilities for the working of government and the competitiveness agenda.

French Nuclear Testing

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates he was contacted by President Chirac of France concerning the French proposed resumption of nuclear testing at Mururoa atoll; and if he will make a statement. [35415]

The Prime Minister: The details of these discussions with President Chirac are confidential.

Engagements

Sir Peter Tapsell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list his official engagements for Tuesday 18 July. [33337]

The Prime Minister: This morning I had meetings with Ministerial colleagues and others. In addition to my duties in the House I shall be having further meetings later today.

Exchange Rate Mechanism

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Prime Minister if it is the policy of Her Majesty's Government to advise the House and seek its advice before a decision is made to act as though sterling was in a fixed exchange rate arrangement under the EMU arrangements set out in the Maastricht treaty; and if he will make a statement. [35188]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the reply which my hon. Friend the Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry gave him on 18 April, *Official Report*, column *41*.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Legal Aid (False Declarations)

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many people were *(a)* investigated and *(b)* prosecuted for false declarations of means in application for legal aid in the years 1985–86 to 1994–95. [34508]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Legal Aid Board's investigation section was set up in 1988. The information requested for the period prior to this date is not available.

The number of applicants investigated for false declaration of means in their applications for legal aid is as follows:

1987–88: Nil
1988–89: Nil
1989–90: Nil
1990–91: 6
1991–92: 5
1992–93: 8
1993–94: 15
1994–95: 25

The number of assisted persons prosecuted under section 39 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 over the same period is as follows:

1987–88: Nil
1988–89: Nil
1989–90: Nil
1990–91: Nil
1991–92: 2
1992–93: Nil
1993–94: 2
1994–95: 2

An additional case, which included other offences of obtaining Department of Social Security benefits by deception and evasion of paying poll tax, was prosecuted in 1994–95. The Crown Prosecution Service decided to institute proceedings under the Theft Act 1968 to deal with all the offences.

Small Claims

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what plans he has to amend paragraph 4a of order 19, rule 2 of the county court rules, in line with Lord Woolf's recommendation on the scope for district judges to transfer difficult cases of the small claims procedure. [35231]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Lord Chancellor considers it would be appropriate to widen the discretion of the district judge to transfer cases out of the small claims jurisdiction when the new "fast track" procedure recommended by Lord Woolf is implemented. To make this amendment prior to the introduction of the "fast track" would reduce litigants' certainty as to the level of costs for which they may become liable.

Mr. Banks: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will list the new measures he intends to introduce in line with Lord Woolf's recommendations to ensure that district judges are properly trained to handle small claims; when these measures will start to take effect; and what account will be taken of increases in the small claims limit in determining the date of commencement. [35232]

Mr. Taylor: The Judicial Studies Board is responsible for the training of district judges. It is currently considering the need for training in handling small claims.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35301]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

TRANSPORT

A303 (Stonehenge)

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on setting up a round table conference to consider improvements to the A303 at Stonehenge. [36209]

Mr. Watts: We are currently approaching suitable candidates for the chairmanship for the conference and I will make an announcement shortly. An exhibition showing all the routes which have been identified as possible solutions, including those shown at the earlier public consultation, will be held in Amesbury in late September. The chairman, when appointed, will make the detailed arrangements for the conference.

National Rail Timetable Information

Mr. Tyler: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it an essential requirement for a successful franchise bid for a rail service that the operating company participates in a national timetable information system for passengers. [34857]

Mr. Watts: Yes. Operators will be required to participate in a national telephone inquiry service to ensure that there is clear and accurate information about train services available nationwide. In addition, all operators will be required to make available at each station clear and up-to-date information about all rail services that use the station and all stations that they serve.

M3 (Bar End-Compton)

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what is the most recent estimate he has made of the number of vehicles using the M3, Bar End-Compton section. [35228]

Mr. Watts: This is an operational matter for the Highways Agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lawrie Haynes to Mr. John Denham, dated 11 July 1995:

As you know, the Minister for Railways and Roads, Mr. John Watts, has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the number of vehicles using the M3, Bar End-Compton section.

In the week beginning 3 July 1995, about 684,000 vehicles used the section of M3 between junctions 10 and 11 (an average of about 97,700 vehicles per day).

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35306]

Mr. Norris: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

Public Service Vehicles

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the total number of journeys made each year by public service vehicles. [35350]

Mr. Norris: The total number of passenger journeys made each year on public service vehicles, up to 1993–94, is listed in tables 10.5 and 11.1, in the HMSO transport statistics report "Bus and Coach Statistics Great Britain: 1993–94". These figures are collected in annual surveys of public service vehicles.

Passenger journey data on non-local services—tours, excursions, express services and private hire, shown in table 10.5—were not collected after 1990–91 as they were considered less reliable than those for local bus and coach services.

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many roadside examinations of public service vehicles took place in the most recent year; and how many were found to have safety defects. [35349]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for the Vehicle Inspectorate Agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ron Oliver to Mr. John Denham dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question on the number of roadside examinations on public service vehicles.

In 1994/95 29,831 public service vehicles were inspected at roadworthiness spot checks (including special checks on smoke emissions). Of these 3,315 were found to have defects which warranted the issue of a prohibition notice.

Vehicle Emissions

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals the Government have to limit vehicle emission. [35382]

Mr. Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Ellesmere Port and Neston (Mr. Miller) on 17 July.

Mr. Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department attaches a higher priority to action against the worst offenders of vehicular emissions; what variation in emissions he has identified according to vehicle type and vehicle age; and what estimates have been made as to the contribution of older cars to the overall emissions. [35383]

Mr. Norris: The Government attach high priority to ensuring compliance with emissions standards for vehicles in service. Emissions are checked both at annual test and at roadside checks. Recent emissions blitz campaigns are evidence of our commitment. Particular attention is given to the worst offenders, who face automatic prosecution. Vehicles of different ages are subject to different legal standards as shown in the table:

Petrol engined cars, light goods vehicles and other vehicles in the main MOT testing scheme:

Application	*Carbon monoxide Per cent.*	*Hydrocarbons Parts per million*
First used on or after 1 January 1983	4.5	1,200
First used on or after 1 August 1975 and before 1 January 1983	6	1,200

For diesel-engined vehicles:

Application	*Smoke opacity in non-turbo engine*	*Smoke opacity in turbo-engine*
First used on or after 1 January 1979 (except taxis)	3.2m^{-1}	3.7m^{-1}
Taxis since 18 April 1995	ditto	ditto

No precise estimates have been made of the contribution of older vehicles to overall emissions, but it should be noted that well-maintained older vehicles will be no more polluting than a similarly maintained three-year-old engine and, typically, have a lower annual mileage than new vehicles.

Automatic Train Protection Systems

Ms Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list all system-wide automatic train protection systems currently under examination by his Department with the name of their manufacturer and the projected cost of installing these systems across the rail network. [35277]

Mr. Watts: My right hon. Friend expects to receive shortly a progress report from the Health and Safety Commission on the British Rail and Railtrack strategy for tackling ATP-preventable accidents. The strategy will identify the devices or systems which could eventually be used more widely on the rail network, either singly or in combination, subject to the outcome of trials or assessments.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures have been taken by his Department to ensure that contracts awarded by his Department represent value for money. [35059]

Mr. Norris: In purchasing goods and services, key measures applied are careful specification of requirements, securing appropriate competition and prices offered, including any maintenance costs.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations exist regarding the awarding of contracts by his Department to firms that are not limited companies. [35061]

Mr. Norris: No regulations exist. Contracts are awarded taking into account the financial stability of a supplier and his ability to undertake the work required.

Double-decker Buses

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect the extension of the whole vehicle type approval framework directive 70/156/EEC as amended by directive 92/53/EEC will have on double-decker buses. [34848]

Mr. Norris: None.

Prestwick Airport

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the restoration of controlled airspace around Prestwick airport. [34350]

Mr. Norris: The Civil Aviation Authority, CAA, has responsibility for airspace planning in the United Kingdom. It has no plans to review the requirement for controlled airspace around Prestwick airport at current traffic levels.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the costs of constructing an international and domestic station on the channel tunnel rail link at Stratford after the line has become operational. [34538]

Mr. Norris: None.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage share he intends to take from the development gain arising from the disposal of the King's Cross railway lands in connection with the channel tunnel rail link. [34278]

Mr. Watts: The Secretary of State intends to take a share in development gain from or benefits accruing on disposal of the King's Cross railway lands.

Swindon Development Agency

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library copies of all papers which were presented to the British Railways Board and/or the BREL board about the case for establishing the Swindon development agency at the time of closure of the Swindon BREL works, together with the minutes of all the decisions about this matter taken by the British Rail Board and the BREL board. [34660]

Mr. Watts: These are internal management documents of the British Railways Board and are not for disclosure.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when British Rail established the Swindon development agency; how much money has been invested in the agency *(a)* by BR and *(b)* from other public sources; how many former BR and BREL employees have been found alternative employment by the agency; and how many jobs for other people in the Swindon area the agency has created. [34453]

Mr. Watts: The information requested is as follows:

Name of agency	*Type of agency when established*	*Investment by BREL*	*Other funding sources*	*How many former BREL employees found employment*	*How many other jobs created*
Swindon development agency 1989 merged with Swindon Ent.g Trust became Great Western Enterprise	Enterprise Agency May 1986	£1.25 million	£120,000 from local business and 2 seconded Railway Managers	Numbers not available, but 6 ex-BREL staff still on payroll	To date over 3,000 business assisted job numbers not available

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will give details of the funding and activities of agencies similar to the Swindon development agency established by the British Rail Board of BREL in other towns or the cities affected by railway job losses. [34461]

Mr. Watts: Details are given in the following table:

Name of agency	*Type of agency when established*	*Investment by BREL*	*Other funding sources*	*How many former BREL employees found employment*	*How many other jobs created*
Bolton Bus Ventures for Horwich Works	Enterprise agency November 1984	£500,000	£50,000 revenue funding p.a. for 3 years plus £50,000 from Bolton Metropolitan B Council	At least 173	823 jobs to October 1987 3,000 businesses assisted to date. Job numbers not available
Crewe Dev Agency	Development agency April 1988	£1.25 million	£50,000 revenue funding p.a. for 3 years plus £50,000 from Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council p.a. for 3 years	Numbers not to hand	800 jobs to date

Name of agency	Type of agency when established	Investment by BREL	Other funding sources	How many former BREL employees found employment	How many other jobs created
Doncaster Bus Advice Centre now Business Link Doncaster	Enterprise agency March 1987	£1.65 million	1 Seconded Railway Manager	Survey reveals most pre-retirement former staff gained employment	1,000 jobs to date
Glasgow Street Rollox (STRIDE)	Development agency 1988	£1.1 million	3 seconded Railway Managers	—	—
Derby and Derbyshire Business Venture	Enterprise agency April 1988	£1 million	£50,000 revenue funding p.a. for 3 years plus 2 seconded Railway Staff	30 businesses Jobs Numbers not available	420 jobs to date
Shildon and Seddgefield Dev Agency (SASDDA)	Development agency August 1984	£2 million	£50,000 revenue funding p.a. for 3 years from Sedgefield DC plus £25,000 p.a. for 3 years from Shildon Town Council	Not specifically identified	400 projects 3,500 new jobs
York Innovation Ltd.	Innovation agency 1988	£300,000	Nil	Other details unavailable at unavailable at short notice possible 25	—
Wolverton Employ Project (previously Milton Keynes Manpower Forum)	Employ Project November 1986	153,000	Nil	214	1,250

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the past 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as www.open.gov.uk and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34677]

Mr. Hanley: From 1 May 1995, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, diplomatic wing, began publishing a range of regularly updated information material on the world wide web, including speeches and statements, press releases, consular and travel advice and a selection of other material on international issues. The service can be accessed under the address http://www.fco.gov.uk.

The Overseas Development Administration makes available material on development issues through the "one World Online" web site at the address http://www/oneworld.org/oda/. It is also actively considering ways of publishing more general information through either the Government world wide web server www.open.gov.uk or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office server detailed above."

Mr. Harry Wu

Mr. David Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of the Chinese People's Republic on the arrest of Mr. Harry Wu; and if he will make a statement. [34839]

Mr. Hanley: Mr. Harry Wu is a United States citizen, and the US Government are in contact with the Chinese authorities about his arrest. We share American concern about this case and hope that Mr. Wu will soon be released.

We are in discussion with European Union partners and the United States about the next steps.

Exports

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of his Department's annual budget is spent on the promotion of British exports; and if he will make a statement. [34936]

Mr. Hanley: I refer the hon. Member to pages 32–37 of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 1995 departmental report, Cm 2802, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. The cost of commercial activity is given in table 11 therein.

Pitcairn Island

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which British mission is responsible for the protection of the dependent territory of Pitcairn island. [35167]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: The British high commissioner in Wellington is Governor of Pitcairn.

United Nations Special Commission

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what resources are currently committed to the United Nations special commission on Iraq; and what plans he has to increase United Kingdom payments to UNSCOM. [35162]

Mr. David Davis: The UK makes a significant contribution to the work of the special commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Iraq by putting at their disposal a wide range of expertise and equipment. At the moment, four British nationals are in Iraq on UNSCOM inspections, a further seven are seconded to the Baghdad monitoring centre for periods of up to six months, and four are seconded to UNSCOM in

New York. In the financial year 1994–95 the total cost of UK support for UNSCOM was £1.1 million.

There are no plans to change the level of our support.

Weapons Tests

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 10 July, *Official Report*, column *394*, if he will commission an evaluation of the report prepared by Stephen Hughes MEP and C. L. Beaver for the European Parliament's environment committee on the environmental and health effects of French nuclear testing at Mururoa and Fangataufa in French Polynesia, to assess its relevance to British dependent territories in the region. [35166]

Mr. David Davis: We are naturally concerned to ensure the environmental protection of British dependent territories, but note the assurance given by President Chirac that the proposed programme of nuclear tests will cause no damage to the environment.

Mr. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the relevance to British policy of the written reply, number 1519/95 EN by the EU Environment Commissioner on 28 June to Nuala Ahern MEP, on the notifications made by France to the European Commission on nuclear testing under Article 34 of the EURATOM Treaty. [35168]

Mr. Davis: We have no current plans to carry out any further nuclear tests. The Commission's reply, to which the hon. Gentleman refers, therefore has no consequences for British policy.

Mr. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received regarding the welfare of British nationals on board the Greenpeace ship "Rainbow Warrior II" near the Mururoa atoll in the Pacific ocean. [35154]

Mr. Hanley: None.

We have reminded the French authorities of their obligations towards us in respect of any British nationals they detain.

Mr. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what treaty restrictions exist on the ability of Her Majesty's Government to share with another nuclear weapons power data on nuclear weapons simulations obtained by use of the Nevada test site either independently or in collaboration with the United States Government. [35153]

Mr. Davis: In the event that such information were obtained from US sources, article VII of the 1958 UK/US mutual defence agreement states that it could not be communicated to third parties without the approval of the US Government.

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Governments have made representations to him concerning the proposed French nuclear testing at Mururoa atoll; and if he will make a statement. [35416]

Mr. Davis: We have discussed this question with a number of Governments, particularly those in the south Pacific. We have made clear our own views on several occasions.

East Timor

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, column *264*, for what reasons his answer excluded the issue of discussion about the export of British arms to Indonesia. [34855]

Mr. Hanley: We do not wish to prejudice our contacts with Timorese representatives by revealing the precise nature of our discussions.

Antarctic Secretariat

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects agreement to be reached on the future siting of the Antarctic secretariat. [35432]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: The siting of the Antarctic treaty secretariat was discussed at the XIXth Antarctic treaty consultative meeting in Seoul in May. Treaty parties noted that there was still no progress on reaching a consensus on this issue. The next consultative meeting will take place in the Netherlands in April 1996, when it is expected that the matter will be taken forward.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35315]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

Western Sahara

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects that the referendum on the future of the western Sahara will be held; and if he will make a statement. [35433]

Mr. Hanley: We hope that the referendum will be held early next year. We welcome Polisario's decision to resume its participation in the voter identification process. We call on both parties to the dispute to co-operate fully with the United Nations Secretary-General in the implementation of the UN's settlement plan for the territory, and to refrain from any further actions which may hinder implementation of the plan.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 12 July, *Official Report*, column *590*, if he will indicate the nature of the diplomatic wing's consultancy service and those involved in the aid programme. [35488]

Mr. Hanley: Consultancies carried out in both the diplomatic and aid wings in 1994–95 would involve some or all of the elements of consultancy contained in the Cabinet Office definition.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Mr. Patrick Thompson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the annual report of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy will be available. [36081]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: Copies of the foundation's annual report for 1994–95 will be placed in the Libraries of the House during the week beginning 17 July.

The foundation received £2.2 million from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for its activities in 1994–95. With this grant, it has supported 244 projects, compared with 236 projects last year. This has included a significant contribution to a wide range of media organisations in the former Soviet Union, a comprehensive programme of political party training with a range of parties throughout central and eastern Europe undertaken by UK political parties, and provided on-going support to the post-electoral structures in the new South Africa.

The foundation continues to make a valuable contribution to the promotion of democracy worldwide.

Foreign Affairs Council (Geneva)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will report on the outcome of the Foreign Affairs Council held in Geneva on 30 June. [36166]

Mr. David Davis: A Foreign Affairs Council was called at short notice in Geneva on 30 June to consider how the Community should respond to developments in the final stages of negotiations in the World Trade Organisation on the liberalisation of financial services. My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Technology represented the United Kingdom.

The Council noted with regret that the WTO was unable to conclude an agreement containing a high degree of commitments to multilateral and non-discriminatory liberalisation on trade in financial services and expressed concern about the position taken by the US Government in the final stages of the negotiations. The Council agreed that European Union negotiators should support the extension of the deadline for completion of the negotiations on both financial services and the movement of persons until 28 July 1995.

The Council agreed that the Community and its member states should work during this extra period to achieve maximum liberalisation on a multilateral and non-discriminatory basis, thus preserving the benefits of the great efforts made in earlier rounds of the negotiations, and called on other parties to work for the same objective.

The Council discussed how best to achieve this objective and agreed to return to the matter at its meeting in Brussels on 17 July 1995.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Nicaragua

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list projects funded in Nicaragua in 1994–95 through aid for *(a)* technical co-operation, *(b)* programme aid and *(c)* the Commonwealth Development Corporation. [33265]

Mr. Hanley: The list of bilateral projects in Nicaragua funded in 1994–95 is as follows:

(a) technical co-operation—

English language teaching project

(b) programme aid—

nil (disbursements under the £600,000 programme aid grant signed in 1991 were completed in 1993–94).

(c) Commonwealth Development Corporation—

(i) Establishment of an export warehousing operation.

(ii) Establishment of a shrimp farm.

Indonesia

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what respect and to what extent the police management training project in Indonesia benefits the poorest people in that country.

Mr. Hanley: A more efficient and better managed police service should benefit the population of Indonesia as a whole.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria applied to the provision of aid to police forces at the time his Department approved the police management training project in Indonesia. [34711]

Mr. Hanley: Support designed to enhance the competence and effectiveness of a national police service can play a valuable part in the general improvement of public services on which economic and social development substantially depend. The police management training project in Indonesia was approved on this basis.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 30 June, *Official Report*, column *803*, if he will place in the Library a copy of the project completion report on the radio studios rehabilitation project in Indonesia.

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* As made clear in ODA's code of practice for open government, release of project completion reports requires the consent of the recipient Government. We are contacting the Indonesian Government accordingly.

Competitive Tendering

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the policy of the Overseas Development Administration on involving recipient countries in the selection process during competitive tendering in respect of projects which it funds. [34840]

Mr. Hanley: Where the ODA provides financial aid, the recipient country is responsible for the tendering process, and—unlike the ODA—is a party to the contract. Under technical co-operation, where contracts are let by the ODA, the recipients' needs are fully considered in drawing up project terms of reference and in the criteria for selection. In the latter case, the views of the recipient may be sought about the relative merits of tenders

submitted, but the ODA is responsible for ensuring the proposed contract award is determined by best procurement practice.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Car Allowance

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Lord President of the Council how much money would have been saved in the past year if the maximum rate that could be claimed by hon. Members for car travel was set at (i) the current middle rate, (ii) the current lowest rate and (iii) the same rate as is the maximum payable to councillors. [34778]

Mr. Newton: Detailed figures are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Pornography

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what are the divisions of responsibility for enforcing the law on pornography within the Metropolitan police force following the review of the Obscene Publications Branch-SO1(4); [35370]

(2) how many police officers within the Metropolitan police force are currently working on *(a)* child pornography, *(b)* adult pornography and *(c)* computer pornography of any type; and what were the figures in 1993. [35371]

Mr. Maclean: I understand from the Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis that responsibility for enforcing the law on all aspects of pornography is shared by the clubs and vice unit on the Metropolitan police No. 1 area and the paedophile unit at New Scotland Yard.

The following are the numbers of police officers assigned to these units in 1993 and currently.

Rank	*Current staffing levels*	*1993 staffing levels*
Superintendent	1	1
Chief Inspector	2	nil
Inspector	2	2
Sergeant	11	9
Constable	20	16

"Why Civil Liberties"

Dame Jill Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what direct or indirect Government funding has been provided to the Civil Liberties Trust for the making and distribution of the video pack for schools entitled "Why Civil Liberties". [35195]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: In 1992–93, the latest year for which information has currently been collated, no direct grants were made to the Civil Liberties Trust by a central Government Department. Information for 1993–94 is currently being collated. Records of individual grants made indirectly, for example by non-departmental public bodies, are not kept centrally by this Department.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35317]

Mr. Howard: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

CS Gas

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what tests and studies have been carried out since 1965 by police departments on CS gas or CS gas foam; what was the purpose of these tests; where the tests were carried out and by whom; what was the nature of these tests; when the tests were carried out; what is the Home Office's policy on the use of CS gas or CS gas foam; and what assistance the police received from the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, during these tests. [35575]

Mr. Maclean: Individual police forces have not, so far as I am aware, carried out their own scientific research into CS. They do, however, have access to the results of research and to expert advice. The report of the Home Office inquiry into the medical toxicological aspects of CS, published in two parts in 1969 and 1971—Command Papers 4173 and 4775 respectively—included a thorough review of the substantial research which had been carried out into CS at that time. This has subsequently been complemented by further research which has been reported upon in the published literature. This is kept under expert review by the Home Office police scientific development branch, which in turn provides chief officers of police with advice on the operational suitability of particular products.

The police scientific development branch has, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, recently reviewed the latest available information in relation to proposals for the carriage of CS by police officers for self-defence. The police have for some years had access to CS for use against armed besieged criminals or as a last resort in public disorder.

It is for chief officers of police to choose which CS devices to deploy, or the medium in which the irritant is dispensed, in any given circumstances. It is planned to use hand-held canisters which spray CS in a liquid solution for police self-defence trials.

Police Complaints Authority

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what new appointments have been made to the Police Complaints Authority. [35817]

Mr. Maclean: Mrs. Caroline Mitchell and Mr. James Elliott have accepted my invitation to serve as members of the Police Complaints Authority. Mrs. Mitchell was previously senior assistant to the ombudsman at the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau and Mr. Elliott is at present divisional director of housing for the London borough of Brent. Mrs. Mitchell and Mr. Elliott will serve for three years from 22 May 1995 and 7 August 1995 respectively.

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Stephen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will lay before Parliament the annual report for the Forensic Science Service. [35818]

Mr. Howard: I have today laid before Parliament copies of the Forensic Science Service's annual report and accounts for 1994–95.

Immigration

Mr. John Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the outcome of the study of inter-agency co-operation on the enforcement of the immigration laws which he set up in October 1993. [35869]

Mr. Howard: The efficiency scrutiny which I announced in October 1993 was intended to examine ways in which the Government as a whole could work more effectively to strengthen immigration control and to prevent those temporarily or illegally in this country from receiving state benefits to which they should not be entitled. The scrutiny demonstrated that, in many cases, either the rules governing eligibility for benefit or the procedures for granting it were insufficiently rigorous to prevent abuse. It also showed that too often illegal immigrants were able to escape detection because procedures for identifying them were unclear.

The Government do not believe that this is acceptable. It is wrong that people who are admitted to this country on the basis that they can provide for themselves or who are here illegally should receive benefits paid for by the taxes of lawful residents. The fact that this has been possible has provided a significant incentive for abuse of our immigration laws. Our objective is to end this abuse.

The recommendations made by the scrutiny have been carefully considered. The Government have agreed proposals affecting the work of several Departments and agencies in respect of persons from abroad—a term used to mean a person who is not a national of a member state of the European Economic Area and who is not settled in the United Kingdom within the meaning of the immigration laws. The proposals, which fall into three interlinked groups, are designed:

> to ensure that people who are here unlawfully or as visitors do not receive benefits to which they are not entitled, including social security, social housing, free NHS treatment and student awards;
>
> to ensure that staff responsible for providing benefits and services are given the necessary guidance and training to identify claimants who are ineligible because of their immigration status;
>
> to strengthen the arrangement for staff responsible for providing benefits and services to pass information about immigration offenders to the immigration authorities.

These proposals will be put into effect in the following ways. First, in seeking to align eligibility for benefits and services with immigration status and to ensure that procedures to check eligibility are effective:

> My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Social Security has already tightened up his Department's procedures to ensure that ineligible persons from abroad are excluded from income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit. My right hon. Friend is now examining the position in relation to other non-contributory benefits and hopes to make an announcement in due course;
>
> My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Employment will consider the need for further steps to ensure that persons from abroad here temporarily or in breach of the immigration laws do not gain access to student awards or loans;
>
> My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment has already published proposals for fairer access to social housing, under which persons from abroad temporarily in this country will not be able to obtain assistance under the homelessness legislation. My hon. Friend the Minster for Local Government Housing and Urban Regeneration has today announced in a written answer that under the proposals such people will not be entitled to social housing tenancies allocated by local housing authorities;
>
> My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has asked national health service staff to work closely with my Department to find better ways of controlling access to free medical treatment by persons from abroad who are not entitled to receive it;

Secondly, in improving procedures to enable the providers of benefits and services to identify ineligible persons from abroad:

> clearer instructions and appropriate training will be given, with the assistance of the Immigration and Nationality Department, to social security and Employment Service staff;
>
> guidance will be given to local authorities, and training will be made available to local authority staff in identifying immigration offenders after consultation with local authority associations, on the identification of immigration offenders;
>
> further guidance is being considered in respect of student awards and also for institutions of further and higher education;
>
> we shall introduce a mre effective system of notification of relevant changes in immigration status to ensure that those who should not have access to social security benefits do not receive them;
>
> my Department is consulting the Department for Education and Employment on whether it would be feasible to issue guidance for schools admission authorities.

Thirdly, in developing arrangements for more exchanges of information between officials in central and local government and the Immigration and Nationality Department of the Home Office, we shall be taking advantage of the opportunities which naturally arise in the daily contacts between officials and persons from abroad. So long as they are not prevented by their statutory obligations or by the sensitivities of their operational objectives, officials in central Government will pass to the immigration authorities information about suspected illegal entrants and overstayers with whom they come into contact in the course of their normal duties. In its turn the Immigration and Nationality Department will be able to give details of an applicant's status under the immigration laws when that is relevant to his eligibility for a state benefit or service. In order to make quite sure that they are operating strictly within the provisions of the data protection laws, all departments and agencies concerned will fully consult the Data Protection Registrar before implementing these arrangements.

Because I attach great importance to the maintenance of good race relations in this country, my Department will consult the Commission for Racial Equality on a set of objective criteria which may be used by Departments and

agencies if it becomes necessary to seek clarification of an applicant's status under the immigration rules.

Criminal Records

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration has been given in the White Paper he proposes to introduce that will establish a privatised criminal justice record system, Phoenix, to the rights of affected individuals to have equal access to the same information. [35367]

Mr. Maclean: Our proposals on new arrangements for access to criminal records in the employment context will be published later this year.

Phoenix, the criminal justice record service, is already operational. It will not be privatised.

Street Robberies

Mr. Stephens: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the average sentence *(a)* passed and *(b)* served in custody, for street robberies in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [35270]

Miss Widdecombe: The information requested is not available. Street robberies are not distinguished separately from other robberies in the information collected centrally on the prison population and court proceedings.

Relocation of Prisoners (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration is being given to the relocation of prisoners from Great Britain to Northern Ireland prisons; and if he will make a statement. [35595]

Miss Widdecombe: The Criminal Justice Act 1961 provides for prisoners convicted in one United Kingdom jurisdiction to request permanent or temporary transfer to another United Kingdom jurisdiction.

Requests for transfer continue to be considered on their individual merits under criteria announced to the House on 23 November 1992.

Prosecution and Cautioning Data

Ms Corston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many males aged *(a)* 10 to 13, *(b)* 14 to 16 and *(c)* 17 to 20 years were estimated to be in the population for England and Wales; and how many were charged with and cautioned for (i) violent offences against the person, (ii) robbery, (iii) burglary, (iv) summary offences of criminal damage and malicious damage and (v) all other offences for each year since 1983. [34464]

Mr. Maclean: As detailed information on the number of persons charged is not collected centrally, prosecution data as well as cautioning figures are given in the tables.

Data for 1994 will not be available until the autumn of 1995.

Table A: Male Home Population by age group 1983–1993

England and Wales — *Thousands*

Age	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*
10–13	1,491.0	1,426.5	1,348.4	1,282.1	1,224.6	1,195.7	1,203.7	1,236.7	1,281.9	1,311.2	1,316.1
14–16	1,220.0	1,190.0	1,182.1	1,153.1	1,114.0	1,045.1	988.7	942.6	916.2	894.0	912.4
17–20	1,723.9	1,708.5	1,678.0	1,643.1	1,611.2	1,587.7	1,555.5	1,508.0	1,454.8	1,377.7	1,307.1
Total aged 10 and over	21,074.3	21,140.2	21,194.6	21,218.1	21,248.5	21,268.6	21,325.8	21,397.3	21,577.5	21,653.1	21,736.6

Source:
Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

Table B: Number of males cautioned for certain offences by age group 1983–1993

England and Wales

Offence description/Age	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*
10–13											
INDICTABLE OFFENCES											
Violence against the person[1]	1,173	1,048	1,151	937	1,004	1,042	1,191	1,158	1,490	1,690	1,803
Robbery	91	97	80	71	103	78	143	219	211	266	247
Burglary[2]	5,466	5,841	5,719	4,641	4,232	4,026	4,108	4,411	3,858	3,906	3,438
Total indictable offences	32,041	33,179	34,440	26,298	26,014	22,851	20,326	22,468	20,958	22,451	19,924
SUMMARY NON-MOTORING OFFENCES											
Criminal and malicious damage	3,752	3,898	4,165	3,425	2,837	2,747	3,050	3,188	3,220	3,464	3,739
Total summary non-motoring	6,274	6,174	6,088	4,883	4,099	3,989	5,295	5,525	5,194	5,584	5,730
Total all offences	38,315	39,353	40,528	31,181	30,113	26,840	25,621	27,933	26,152	28,035	25,654
14–16											
INDICTABLE OFFENCES											
Violence against the person[1]	2,601	2,957	3,301	3,103	3,500	3,690	4,054	4,449	4,506	4,940	4,886
Robbery	56	76	89	92	108	136	145	261	231	231	267
Burglary[2]	5,337	6,283	7,031	6,352	6,842	6,136	5,829	7,006	6,259	6,183	5,093
Total indictable offences	37,541	42,112	47,956	43,595	47,997	43,033	37,485	44,230	41,011	42,076	36,375
SUMMARY NON-MOTORING OFFENCES											
Criminal and malicious damage	4,067	4,667	5,402	5,508	4,898	4,991	4,846	5,307	4,781	4,901	5,077
Total summary non-motoring	12,384	12,526	13,893	13,178	12,588	12,455	16,008	17,157	14,702	14,356	13,111
Total all offences	49,925	54,638	61,849	56,773	60,585	55,488	53,493	61,387	55,713	56,432	49,486

Table B: Number of males cautioned for certain offences by age group 1983–1993

England and Wales

Offence description/Age	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*
17–20											
INDICTABLE OFFENCES											
Violence against the person[1]	459	693	775	1,021	1,353	1,454	1,608	1,994	2,389	3,133	3,234
Robbery	5	4	8	9	6	9	8	25	24	37	63
Burglary[2]	253	348	388	589	728	792	797	1,171	1,334	1,847	2,002
Total indictable offences	4,409	5,711	7,475	10,464	14,275	15,026	16,671	22,944	27,960	35,392	36,720
SUMMARY NON-MOTORING OFFENCES											
Criminal and malicious damage	623	815	983	1,584	1,949	1,966	2,227	2,776	3,244	3,933	4,204
Total summary non-motoring	4,574	7,036	8,288	10,069	12,083	12,410	12,880	13,395	13,482	15,823	16,443
Total all offences	8,983	12,747	15,763	20,533	26,358	27,436	29,551	36,339	41,442	51,215	53,163
All Ages											
INDICTABLE OFFENCES											
Violence against the person[1]	5,521	6,147	7,064	7,429	8,965	9,732	11,099	12,559	14,551	17,503	18,130
Robbery	155	184	178	181	218	229	303	515	482	559	599
Burglary[2]	11,213	12,665	13,386	11,912	12,155	11,353	11,124	13,085	12,182	13,114	11,695
Total indictable offences	82,658	91,648	104,246	98,677	111,474	107,007	102,774	124,218	131,368	155,037	153,634
SUMMARY NON-MOTORING OFFENCES											
Criminal and malicious damage	8,964	10,147	11,498	11,919	11,780	12,082	12,746	14,353	15,171	18,009	19,423
Total summary non-motoring	38,161	54,644	62,046	64,328	73,777	80,630	86,875	88,196	85,305	90,020	86,254
Total all offences	120,819	146,292	166,292	163,005	185,251	187,637	189,649	212,414	216,673	245,057	239,888

[1] A number of indictable offences were reclassified as summary on October 1988 following the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
[2] Offenders cautioned for "going equipped for stealing etc" were counted against 'burglary offences' until 1986 and against 'others' from 1987.

Table C: Number of males prosecuted for certain offences by age group 1983–1993

England and Wales

Offence description/Age	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*
10–13											
INDICTABLE OFFENCES											
Violence against the person[1]	619	553	472	331	281	317	303	313	338	349	451
Robbery	200	196	160	159	140	154	185	247	239	308	307
Burglary[2]	4,119	3,995	3,400	2,229	1,702	1,379	1,229	1,077	1,068	1,024	996
Total indictable offences	12,636	12,025	10,137	7,058	5,301	4,733	3,886	3,738	3,601	3,828	3,879
SUMMARY OFFENCES											
Criminal and malicious damage	1,460	1,132	1,052	710	484	420	376	377	340	395	428
Total summary non-motoring	2,375	1,922	1,604	1,084	759	766	1,095	1,129	1,081	1,083	1,042
Summary motoring offences	158	152	150	176	100	92	107	211	200	161	146
Total all offences	15,169	14,099	11,891	8,318	6,160	5,591	5,088	5,078	4,882	5,072	5,067
14–16											
INDICTABLE OFFENCES											
Violence against the person[1]	6,227	5,666	5,420	4,544	4,693	4,799	4,436	3,973	3,716	3,856	3,858
Robbery	860	995	1,003	969	1,073	1,103	1,312	1,278	1,311	1,404	1,610
Burglary[2]	18,366	18,149	16,245	12,342	11,370	9,746	8,241	7,980	7,564	7,429	7,214
Total indictable offences	61,026	59,275	54,697	44,909	43,413	28,859	29,445	28,552	27,531	27,324	27,924
SUMMARY OFFENCES											
Criminal and malicious damage	5,231	4,640	4,573	3,852	3,354	2,880	2,686	2,380	2,062	1,966	1,967
Total summary non-motoring	15,833	13,965	11,968	9,540	8,541	8,348	12,358	11,210	10,209	9,376	8,551
Summary motoring offences	10,348	8,649	7,447	5,820	4,518	3,872	4,163	4,163	3,285	2,472	3,018
Total all offences	87,207	81,889	74,112	60,269	56,472	51,079	45,966	43,925	41,025	39,172	39,493
17–20											
INDICTABLE OFFENCES											
Violence against the person[1]	18,758	17,745	18,042	16,438	18,493	19,536	19,673	18,301	16,353	15,400	14,385
Robbery	1,914	2,001	2,076	1,878	2,053	2,148	2,144	2,262	2,359	2,542	2,532
Burglary[2]	28,598	29,473	28,773	24,641	24,422	21,540	20,166	21,429	23,617	21,962	20,462
Total indictable offences	132,130	131,897	132,688	118,691	125,424	122,799	108,476	114,720	117,776	110,355	102,184
SUMMARY OFFENCES											
Criminal and malicious damage	14,514	15,156	15,335	13,663	14,466	13,901	13,981	12,628	10,285	8,792	7,216
Total summary non-motoring	77,864	72,337	68,247	62,824	67,350	71,073	80,476	75,454	63,467	55,584	46,305
Summary motoring offences	149,359	135,692	130,823	126,628	103,243	98,384	105,437	107,240	102,419	96,060	88,186
Total all offences	359,353	339,926	331,758	308,143	296,017	293,256	294,389	297,414	283,662	261,999	236,675
All Ages											
INDICTABLE OFFENCES											
Violence against the person[1]	61,628	59,135	60,107	57,055	65,841	73,809	78,809	77,818	76,924	76,882	73,788
Robbery	5,313	5,501	5,881	5,406	6,008	5,968	6,492	6,691	7,340	8,136	8,512
Burglary[2]	81,200	81,724	78,282	66,165	66,479	59,500	54,379	57,351	63,960	63,029	60,684
Total indictable offences	456,547	450,092	448,894	400,742	426,495	433,377	390,025	406,740	427,744	429,441	420,871
SUMMARY OFFENCES											
Criminal and malicious damage	41,768	42,250	42,898	39,382	42,271	42,820	45,105	43,142	38,450	35,397	31,510
Total summary non-motoring	423,367	384,219	369,236	376,317	375,504	402,991	425,699	424,271	413,123	421,483	403,599
Summary motoring offences	1,106,463	1,040,651	1,012,292	1,037,498	753,875	741,322	758,977	758,940	798,516	833,304	794,839
Total all offences	1,986,377	1,874,962	1,830,424	1,814,557	1,555,874	1,577,690	1,574,701	1,589,951	1,639,383	1,684,228	1,619,309

[1] A number of indictable offences were reclassified as summary on October 1988 following the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
[2] Offenders cautioned for "going equipped for stealing etc" were counted against 'burglary offences' until 1986 and against 'others' from 1987.

Immigration

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many applications for entry into this country from partners of United Kingdom citizens have been refused entry wholly or partly on grounds of their sexuality, in each of the last three years; [34519]

(2) how many applications for entry into the United Kingdom there have been from partners of United Kingdom citizens in homosexual relationships in the last three years. [34518]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The information requested is not available; such cases are not separately identified in the statistics.

Bail Hostel (Port Talbot)

Mr. John Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will now publish the report on the bail hostel at Port Talbot. [34352]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The report by Her Majesty's inspectorate of probation is due to be published early next month.

Bingo

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will review regulations relating to the advertising of bingo to enable it to be on equal terms with the national lottery. [34450]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The restrictions on the advertising of bingo and other forms of commercial gambling are currently under review as part of the Government's deregulation initiative.

Violent Crimes

Ms Corston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the research studies from his Department which have *(a)* reported and *(b)* are yet to be published on the reasons for the rise since 1985 in the number of boys and young men charged with, or cautioned, for, offences of violence against the person. [34462]

Mr. Maclean: No research reports have been published or are due for publication which deal directly with the number of boys and young men charged with, or cautioned for, offences of violence against the person. Information from Home Office statistics shows a reduction in the number of those in the under-21 age group found guilty or cautioned for offences against the person since 1985, although changes in recording of common assault, which was reclassified as summary only in 1989, will have affected the figures. Allowing for this, it would appear that there has been little change over the period.

Serious Crimes (Low-income Households)

Ms Corston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the research studies commissioned by his Department in the 1980s and 1990s on the relationship between low household disposal income and rates of serious criminal offences; and if he will make a statement. [34482]

Mr. Maclean: No such studies have been commissioned by the Department, although questions relating to household income are included in the "British Crime Survey". Reports of the "British Crime Survey", the latest being the 1992 British crime survey, Home Office research study No.132, are in the Library.

Police Personnel

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police personnel per 1,000 population there are in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* other parts of the United Kingdom. [34363]

Mr. Maclean: The number of police per 1,000 population in the United Kingdom is as follows:

Northern Ireland: 7.1

Scotland: 2.79

England and Wales: 2.46

Immigration (Detention)

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he is taking to improve the efficiency of the allocation of immigration cases to detention centres. [33994]

Mr. Baker: Plans are in hand to introduce a revised detention allocation system designed to ensure that the best use is made of available space in accordance with agreed priorities.

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will re-examine immigration service policy with a view to ending the detention of any person in police custody solely for having contravened immigration laws. [33996]

Mr. Baker: The initial detention of an immigration offender arrested within the United Kingdom will continue to require the use of police cells. However, the Immigration (Places of Detention) Direction 1994 limits detention in police cells under immigration powers to a maximum of five days—seven days if directions for removal within that period have been given. Every effort is made to transfer immigration detainees to more suitable accommodation as soon as this can be arranged.

Immigration (Carriers' Liability)

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to ensure that the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act 1987 is properly enforced and to ensure rapid payment of any fines levied on carriers. [33995]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Enforcement of the Act forms an integral part of the Government's strategy for ensuring an effective immigration control. The immigration service assists carriers in meeting their obligations under the Act through an extensive programme of guidance and training. It has, for example, provided training to carriers on 325 separate occasions at ports of embarkation worldwide since the Act was introduced.

At 30 June 1995 a total of £80.20 million had been incurred by carriers under the Act. Of this sum 79.7 per cent. had either been paid, £46.11 million, waived

following representations by carriers, £10.60 million, or was the subject of settlement proposals, £7.20 million. The remaining 20.3 per cent., £16.29 million, is being rigorously pursued as part of an active debt recovery programme, which includes recourse to litigation where necessary.

Prisons (Disabled Visitors' Facilities)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the prisons in England and Wales that have disabled facilities for visitors to use when visiting prison inmates. [34079]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 18 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about facilities for disabled visitors at prisons in England and Wales.

Prisons with facilities for disabled visitors are listed in the attached table. Such facilities include ramps, lifts, wide doors and specially adapted toilets. The listed prisons will have some or all of these.

Prisons in England and Wales with facilities for disabled visitors

Acklington
Albany
Aldington
Ashwell
Askham Grange
Aylesbury
Bedford
Belmarsh
Birmingham
Blakenhurst
Blundeston
Bristol
Brixton
Brockhill
Bullingdon
Camp Hill
Canterbury
Cardiff
Channings Wood
Coldingley
Dartmoor
Deerbolt
Doncaster
Dorchester
Dover
Downview
Durham
East Sutton Park
Eastwood Park
Elmley
Erlestoke
Everthorpe
Featherstone
Feltham
Ford
Frankland
Full Sutton
Garth
Gloucester
Guys Marsh
Haslar
Haverigg
Hewell Grange
High Down
Highpoint
Hollesley Bay
Holloway
Hull
Huntercombe
Kingston
Kirkham
Kirklevington
Lancaster Farms
Latchmere House
Leeds
Lewes
Leyhill
Lindholme
Littlehey
Low Newton
Maidstone
Manchester
Moorland
Morton Hall
The Mount
New Hall
North Sea Camp
Norwich
Onley
Pentonville
Portland
Preston
Ranby
Reading
Send
Shepton Mallet
Shrewsbury
Stafford
Standford Hill
Stocken
Styal
Sudbury
Swaleside
Swansea
Thorn Cross
Usk and Prescoed
Whitemoor
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Wayland
Wealstun
Wellingborough
Werrington
Wetherby
Whatton
Whitemoor
Winchester
Woodhill
Wormwood Scrubs

Trainee Immigration Officers

Miss Lestor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the series of handouts issued to trainee immigration officers. [33300]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: I have arranged for this material to be examined with a view to placing the handouts in the Library except where disclosure would damage the effectiveness of the immigration control.

Mr. Raghbir Singh Johal

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will notify the hon. Member during the summer recess of developments in the case of Mr. Raghbir Singh Johal with particular reference to

whether a final decision is made to deport him; and if he will make it his policy to ensure that such notification will allow time for further representations to him. [33682]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Yes.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Performance Targets (Agencies)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Attorney-General if he will announce the key performance targets for executive agencies in his Department for 1995–96; and if he will make a statement. [35816]

The Attorney-General: On 28 April 1994, I informed the House, *Official Report,* column *235,* of the key performance targets which I had set for the Government Property Lawyers for 1994–95. The agency has had another successful year and it has achieved the targets I set. I congratulate the chief executive and his staff. I have set the following targets for the agency for 1995–96:

To recover the full operating cost of the Agency.

To achieve at least 6,000 new instructions from its clients.

To effect an average of 95 completions pre case-holder equivalent to a total of 6,935.

To maintain and improve the quality of service in particular by keeping the proportion of cases completed satisfactorily (i.e. without requiring rectification by reason of any fault of the Agency) on or before the target date at or above 99.5 per cent.

Over the three year period. 1993–94 to 1996–97 to achieve a reduction on operating costs of an average of 2.5 per cent. per year in real terms taking 1993–94 as the base year.

I wish the chief executive and his staff another successful year.

Serious Fraud Office

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Attorney-General when he expects to lay before Parliament and publish the annual report of the Serious Fraud Office for the year 1994–95. [35815]

The Attorney-General: The report was laid before Parliament at 11 am this morning and then published. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

Statistics (EU)

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to his answer of 29 June, if he will publish such information on other EU member states, official publications on public expenditure and taxation as is readily available to him. [32492]

Mr. Heathcoat Amory: Relevant documents for each of the member states are listed below, where readily available, with the usual month of publication. A number of these documents are not available in the English language.

AUSTRIA

1. Federal Budget Law *(Bundesfinanzgesetz),* January.

2. Financial Report of the Federal Minister of Finance *(Bundesvoranschlag),* October.

3. Multi-Year budget estimates of the Federal Minister of Finance supplemented by the Federal Investment Programme *(Budgetprognose und Investitionsprogram des Bundes),* June.

4. Annual Economic Report *(Wirtschaftsbericht)* of the Federal Government, June.

5. Quarterly Report on the excess expenditures *(Zusammenstellung der überplanmäsigen Ausgaben).*

6. Subsidy Report of the Federal Government *(Subventionsbericht),* autumn.

7. Public Debt Report *(Finanzschuldenbericht),* July.

8. Federal Household Act *(bundeshaushaltsgesetz).*

BELGIUM

1. Budget Document. Source: Ministry of Budget

DENMARK

1. Finance Bill *(Finanslovforslag).* August.

2. Finance Act *(Finanslov),* February.

3. Budget Updates *("Budgetoversigt"),* published May, August, October and December.

4. Supplementary Finance Bill *("Forslag til tillaegsbevillingslov"),* February.

5. The Budget. English Summary of the Finance Bill, September.

6. Finance White Paper *("Finansredegorelse"),* once a year.

7. Expenditure White Paper *("Udgiftsanalyser"),* once a year.

8. Budget Manual *("Budgetvejledning"),* latest issue February 1992.

FINLAND

1. Budget proposal *(Hallituksen esitys eduskunnalle valtion tulo—ja menoarvioksi).* September. Annexes: Economic Survey (English translation available), Report on Multi-year Projections of State Finances.

2. Government Statement on Economic Policy to Parliament *(Valtioneuvoston talouspoliittinen selonteko eduskunalle),* May.

3. Medium Term Prospects. The Finnish Economy and State Finances to 1990, (biannual, English translation available), May.

4. Report of the Finance Committee of Parliament on the budget proposal *(Valtiovarainvaliokunnan mietinto hallituksen esitykseen johdosta valtion tulo—ja menoarvioski),* December.

5. The Budget accepted by Parliament *(Eduskunnan vastaus hallituksen esityksen valtion tulo—ja menoarvioksi),* December.

6. The specification budget of the State *(Valtion erityismenoarvio),* February/ March.

7. General Instructions for the Implementation of the State Budget *(Valtion tulo—ja menoarvion yleiset soveltamismaaraykset);* January.

8. The Annual Accounts of the State *(Valtion tilinpaatos),* April/May.

9. Report on the Management and State of Government Finances *(Kertomus valtiovarain hoidosta jai tilasta),* Autumn.

10. The State Auditors' Report *(Valtiontilintarkastajain kertomus).*

FRANCE:

1. Finance Bill *(Projet de Loi de Finance),*September/October.

2. Economic and Fiancial Report (Rapport économique et fiancier) September/October.

3. Supplement on "Ways and Means *(Fascicule "Voies et moyens"),* outlining central government revenue, September/October.

4. Annexes *(Annexes),* detailing expenditures on existing services and new measures by Ministry, September/October.

5. Approved Budget *(Budget Voté)* published after approval of Finance Bill, end January.

6. Social Security Accounts *(L'Effort Social de la Nation)* end October/November.

7. Amendments to the Finance Act *(Lois de finances rectificatives)* November/December.

GERMANY

1. Law on the Adoption of the Federal Budget *(Haushaltsgesetz)* supplemented by the Federal Budget Plan *(Bundeshaushaltsplan)*, December.

2. Financial Report of the Federal Minister of Finance *(Finanzbericht des Bundesministers der Finanzen)*, August.

3. Annual Economic Report *(Jahreswirtschaftsbericht)* of the Federal Government, January. *(English translation available).*

4. Quarterly Report on the Excess and/or extra budgetary expenditure *(Zusammenstellung der über und ausserplanmasigen ausgaben in ... Vierteljahr des Haushaltsjahres).*

GREECE:

1. General Budget. Source: Ministry of Finance.

2. Provisional National Accounts of Greece. Source: National Statistical Service of Greece.

3. Bi-annual Report on the Greek Economy—Source: Ministry of National Economy.

IRELAND:

1. Estimates for Public Services (Abridged Version), November/December.

2. Summary Public Capital Programme, November/December.

3. White Paper on Estimates of Receipts and Expenditure January.

4. Revised Estimates for Public Services, March.

5. The Budget booklet March.

6. The Finance Accounts, June.

7. The Appropriation Accounts, by 31 October.

8. Report of the Committee of Public Accounts. No fixed publication date.

ITALY

1. The Forecasting and Planning Report *(Relazione Previsionale e Programmatica)*

LUXEMBOURG:

1. The State Budget *(Le Budget de l'Etat 1995)* Source: Finance Ministry.

NETHERLANDS:

1. Appropriation Bills (Begrotingswetten), September.

2. Budget Memorandum (Milkoenennota), September.

3. Report on macro-economic forecast (Macro Economische Verkenningen), September.

4. Spring memorandum (Voorjaarsnota).

5. Autumn memorandum (Najaarsnota).

6. Report on the provisional results of the budget (February Memorandum *(Voorlopige Rekening)\ (Februari Nota).*

PORTUGAL:

1. The State Budget *(Orcamento geral do estado)*

SPAIN:

1. The Finance Act *(Articulado de la Ley de Presupestos Generales del Estado).*

2. Statement of revenue for the State, autonomous organisations, certain public entities and social security *(Presupuesto de ingresos).*

3. Expenditure. Budget by programme and statement of objectives (Gastos Presupuestos por Programa y Memoria de Objetivos).

4. Financial Statements and accounts of the commercial, industrial and financial autonomous organisations *(Estados Financieros y Cuentas).*

5. Operating and capital budgets and financial statements for certain public entities and state corporations *(Presupuestos de explotacion y capital y estados financieros).*

6. Economic and financial report *(Informe económico financiero).*

7. Consolidated budget *(Presupuesto Consolidado).*

8. Interim report on the budget outturn for the current year *(Avance de la liquidacion del presupuesto).*

SWEDEN:

1. Budget Bill *(Budget propositionen)*, January.

2. Popular version of the Budget Bill *(Regeringens budgetforslag)*, January, English translation available ("Swedish Budget").

3. Revised Budget Bill *(Kompletteringsproposition Reviderad Finansplan)*, April. (The revised economic policy and budget statement is published in English).

4. Annual directives to agencies on how to prepare budget requests *(Aarliga direktiv).*

5. National Audit Bureau's presentation of government finances (Statens finanser).

Inheritance and Capital Transfer Taxes

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the number of owners of chattels that are conditionally exempt from inheritance tax or capital transfer tax that reside in each English county. [32873]

Mr. Jack: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many owners of chattels that are conditionally exempt from inheritance tax or capital transfer tax charge members of the public a fee to view their works of art. [32874]

Mr. Jack: The information requested is not available. Owners may charge members of the public a reasonable fee to review their conditionally exempt chattels, but there is no statutory power for the purpose of either tax to require owners to tell the Inland Revenue about any fee charged.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many owners of works of art which have conditional exemption from inheritance tax or capital transfer tax and to which the public have rights of access *(a)* do not list their telephone numbers in the register of conditionally exempt works of art and *(b)* are ex-directory. [32875]

Mr. Jack: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Single Currency

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will list the working parties he has established to examine and plan the legislative and administrative measures required for the possible introduction of the single currency; [33528]

(2) if he will publish a detailed response to the European Commission's green paper on the practical arrangements for the introduction of a single currency. [33531]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The Government are currently considering how to respond to the "operational conclusions" of the Commission's Green Paper.

Pension Contributions

Ms Corston: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of households, excluding retired households, in the poorest and richest decile groups and what percentage of males and of females of economically active age in those groups as ranked by disposable income in table 34 of the family spending reports of the Central Statistical Office, are paying contributions to *(a)* private pension schemes, *(b)* occupational pension schemes, *(c)* the state earnings-related pension scheme and *(d)* national insurance (basic retirement pension); and how many are paying contributions to both *(a)* or *(b)* and *(d)* and to both *(c)* and *(d)*. [34475]

Mrs. Angela Knight: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Capital Investment

Mr. Patten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the level of capital investment as a percentage of gross domestic product in each year since 1970. [34340]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The latest estimate of gross domestic fixed capital formation and gross domestic product at current and constant market prices is available on the Central Statistical Office database, which may be accessed by the House of Commons Library. The relevant database identifiers are DFDC and CAOB Library. The relevant database identifiers are DFDC and CAOB at current prices and DFDM and CAOO at constant prices.

Barings

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to lay before Parliament the Bank of England report into Barings. [34413]

Mrs. Angela Knight: As my right hon. and learned Friend told the House in his oral statement earlier today, he has laid the Board of Banking Supervision's report into Barings before Parliament.

Non-European Union Import Tariffs

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue the Government receive annually from tariffs imposed on imported goods from outside the EU; and if he will make a statement. [34995]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: Figures for receipts of customs duties by Customs and Excise are shown each year in the annual report of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise. Table A1 in the 1993–94 report shows receipts for each year from 1984–85 to 1993–94.

Value Added Tax

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the loss of revenue to the United Kingdom resulting from VAT rates on tourism, goods and services. [35072]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: The Government do not believe that there is any such revenue loss.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the impact of VAT on tourism, goods and services in the United Kingdom; and what comparative studies he has made of other EU member states. [35071]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: The Government do not believe that the application of VAT discourages tourism in the UK. We have a lower standard rate than most EU member states and our zero rate is widely applied. In addition, some member states apply local tourist taxes.

National Lottery

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of likely tax revenue from the national lottery in 1995–96; and if he will make a statement. [34881]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: The summer economic forecast estimates betting and gaming duties to bring in £1.7 billion in 1995–96 in total. It is not usual practice to disaggregate this figure.

Internal Examinations

Mr. Barry Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out the reasons for the policy allowing customs officers to require any visitor to the United Kingdom to be the subject of an internal examination carried out using reasonable force; and why this power is not available to prison governors. [35193]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: Customs and Excise policy on search of persons exists to prevent the illegal importation of prohibited and restricted goods, or goods on which duty has not been paid, into the United Kingdom. Customs officers have the right to search any person entering or leaving the United Kingdom where reasonable grounds exist: only when a person has been arrested under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and has been shown an unwillingness to co-operate can reasonable force be used. The Home Office is responsible for the powers of prison governors.

Mr. Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out the powers available to Customs officers to require any visitor to the United Kingdom to undergo an internal examination; and in what circumstances reasonable force can be used. [35191]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: Powers in section 164 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 permit the search of any person entering or about to leave the UK, provided Customs officers have reasonable grounds to suspect that the person is carrying prohibited or restricted goods, or goods on which duty has not been paid. Reasonable force may be used only under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 where a person has been arrested and it has been established that the person to be searched is unwilling to co-operate or resists.

Resource Accounting and Budgeting

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to make a further statement on the Government's policy on resource accounting and budgeting. [35813]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: Last July, I published a Green Paper entitled "Better Accounting for the Taxpayer's Money: Resource Accounting and Budgeting". The Green Paper announced the Government's intention to proceed

with the introduction of resource accounting for all Government Departments and a commitment in principle to introduce resource budgeting. It announced a consultation period and asked for comments on the proposals.

I have received a large number of comments from parliamentary colleagues, the accountancy profession and other interested groups. They have shown overwhelming support for the broad principles of resource accounting and budgeting. I shall publish the Government's conclusions and further proposals on 26 July, with a view to seeking parliamentary colleagues' comments in the autumn.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on progress in implementing and developing resource accounting in each Government Department; and what assessment he has made of the general Government financial deficit being used to aid this progress, if used as the primary measure of the budget deficit. [34201]

Mr. Clarke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Southport (Mr. Banks) earlier today, which announced that the White Paper on resource accounting and budgeting will be published on 26 July. An annexe in the White Paper will set out departmental implementation plans. Resource accounting and budgeting is intended to facilitate better informed decisions about overall spending priorities within the context of the Government's macroeconomic objectives.

Monetary Union

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what priority is accorded to the measures of the general Government financial deficit as a measure for European monetary union. [34197]

Mr. Waldegrave: The GGFD is relevant to the excessive deficit procedure which is set out in article 104c and the associated protocol of the treaty on European Union as amended at Maastricht. Being judged not to have an excessive deficit is one of the stage 3 convergence criteria set out in article 109j. Although the UK negotiated an opt-out on the decision on whether to join the EMU, it is well placed to meet the Government deficit and debt reference values by 1996.

Privatisation Receipts

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what percentage privatisation receipts have affected the overall measure of the public sector borrowing requirement since 1979. [34199]

Mr. Waldegrave: The information requested is set out in the table. Privatisation proceeds reduce the public sector borrowing requirement.

Public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) and privatisation proceeds (PPs) as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP)

	Per cent. of GDP	
	PPs	*PSBR*
1979–80	0.2	4.9
1980–81	0.1	5.4
1981–82	0.2	3.4
1982–83	0.2	3.2
1983–84	0.4	3.2
1984–85	0.6	3.1
1985–86	0.8	1.6
1986–87	1.2	0.9
1987–88	1.2	–0.8
1988–89	1.5	–3.1
1989–90	0.8	–1.5
1990–91	1.0	–0.1
1991–92	1.4	2.4
1992–93	1.4	6.0
1993–94	0.8	7.1
1994–95	1.0	5.2

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the benefit of accounting for privatisation receipts separately from the public sector borrowing requirement. [34200]

Mr. Waldegrave: Privatisation proceeds are always shown separately in the Financial Statement and Budget Report and are used to make positive contributions to reducing borrowing and debt.

Royal Ordnance (Shipments to Iran)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when Her Majesty's Customs and Excise received reports from Swedish Customs of the outcome of their investigation into shipments to Iran which mentioned Royal Ordnance; and what action it took. [35334]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: It would not be appropriate to reveal details of exchanges of confidential information under mutual assistance arrangements established to assist the discharge of customs' law enforcement responsibilities, other than in the course of any resultant legal proceedings. All information received under such arrangements is evaluated and followed up as appropriate.

National Debt

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the real increase in the size of the stock of public sector debt between 1979–80 and 1995–96; and what is his current estimate of the size of the national debt. [35380]

Mr. Waldegrave: Net public sector debt is forecast to have increased by 37 per cent. in real terms between end-March 1980 and end-March 1996. As a proportion of gross domestic product, it will have fallen by 3 per cent. over the same period.

The latest available estimate of the national debt is £306.9 billion at end-March 1994.

The national debt, defined as the gross liabilities of the national loans fund, is not directly comparable to net public sector debt.

Income Tax

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the number of taxpayers who were liable to pay income tax at a marginal rate of 40 per cent. or above in each year since 1970. [29889]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 21 June 1995]:* Provisional estimates for 1993–94 onwards are contained in the table. Increase in taxpayer numbers reflects higher taxable incomes and economic growth. Prior to 1979–80 there were nine higher rates of tax, the highest being 83 per cent. Now there is only one higher rate of 40 per cent.

Taxpayers liable at 40 per cent.

	Thousands
1993–94	1,740
1994–95	2,150
1995–96	2,250

Available figures for earlier years were given in the reply to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Attercliffe (Mr. Betts) on 5 May 1994.

Gilts and Bonds

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will alter his present proposals relating to the taxation of gilts and bonds in order to *(a)* avoid the potential for double taxation of shareholders in investment trust companies and *(b)* exempt holders of zero dividend preference shares, who would otherwise be penalised by the change in the tax regime; [32952]

(2) if he will exempt existing holdings of gilts and bonds from the new proposals on the taxation of gilts and bonds, so as to remove the retrospective element involved in changing the tax treatment of existing assets; [34254]

(3) how many representations he has received on his proposals to change the taxation of gilts and bonds; how many of these requested an extension of the consultation period for consideration of the aforementioned proposals; and if he will make a statement. [34255]

Mr. Jack *[holding answers 6 and 13 July 1995]:* I refer to the answer given on 10 July by my right hon. and learned Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the hon. Member for Southport (Mr. Banks), *Official Report*, columns *377–78*.

Privatisation (Debts)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the total amount of debt written off in privatisations since 1984; and if he will list the figures by company and type of debt. [34642]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* It is common practice for capital restructuring to be undertaken where necessary before privatisation. For some privatisations, debt is written off, for others debt is injected. The table shows the debt written off, and the type of debt concerned, and debt injected for each company privatised where either occurred. Debts shown as written off include all debt written off since 1984 in companies subsequently privatised.

Debt written off and debt injected prior to privatisation

Industry	*Debt written off* *Year*	*£ million*	*Type of debt*	*Debt Injected* *Year*	*£ million*
British Telecommunications	1984–85	2,789.9	National Loans Fund	1984–85	3,500
British Gas	—	—	—	1986–87	2,500
BAA	1986–87	43.5	National Loans Fund	—	—
British Steel	1988–89	500.0	Public Dividend Capital	—	—
British Steel	1988–89	3,480.0	Borrowing under Iron and Steel Act 1982	—	—
Harland and Wolff	1989–90	422.5	Assistance under Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries (Northern Ireland) Order 1979	—	—
Short Brothers	1989–90	390.0	Loan by DED	—	—
Water companies	1989–90	4,973.3	National Loans Fund	1989–90	72.9
Water companies	1989–90	55.0	Public Works Loan Board	—	—
Electricity (England and Wales)	—	—	—	1990–91	3,583
Electricity[1] Scotland	1991–92	1,043.6	National Loans Fund	1991–92	625.9
NTL	—	—	—	1991–92	22
Norther Ireland Electricity	—	—	—	1993–94	70.3
Belfast Airport	—	—	—	1943–95	15.2
British Coal	1994–95	1,633.4	Voted Loans	—	—
Total	—	15,331.2	—	—	10,389.3

Notes:
[1] Prior to privatisation, National Loans Fund debt due to the South of Scotland Electricity Board nuclear programme of £1,368.4 million was transferred to Scottish Nuclear Ltd. and subsequently written off.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994

Mr. Clapham: To ask the First Secretary of State what mechanism is used to determine that no necessary protection is removed when considering changes in regulations by order under the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994. [34571]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The responsible Minister must consider the implications of any proposed amendment to primary legislation and, having done so, reach the view that it would remove or reduce a burden and that it would not remove any necessary protection. "Necessary protection" is not defined in the Act but could include, for example, protection for consumers or for the environment. All proposed orders will be scrutinised by the deregulation committee and the House of Lords Delegated Powers Scrutiny Committee, which will report on whether they share the Minister's view that no necessary protection would be removed by the proposed amendment. Following the period of special parliamentary scrutiny, the Minister has to consider any

representations made, including by both committees, before bringing forward a draft order subject to affirmative resolution.

Office of First Secretary of State

Mr. Marlow: To ask the First Secretary of State if he will make a statement on the origins of his office. [34507]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The right hon. R. A. Butler was appointed to the office of First Secretary of State in 1962, and there have been several holders of the office since then.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35303]

Mr. Freeman: The Government's plan for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the First Secretary of State if he will make a statement on the plan his Department has for the next 12 months to make information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as www.open.gov.uk. [34713]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, on 14 July, *Official Report*, columns *833–34*.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the past 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34705]

Mr. Freeman: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the United Kingdom economy. We continue to help smaller companies by keeping inflation and interest rates low and by reducing legislative, administrative and taxation burdens. We provide direct assistance where appropriate. The competitiveness White Paper announced in May 1995 outlines a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

My Department plays a full role in the Government's policies to assist the development of small business in the United Kingdom.

During the last 12 months, we completed the first phase of the national technology foresight programme, which involved participation of businesses across all sectors of the economy. Fifteen sector reports were published between March and April this year and an overarching report was published on 22 May 1995.All the reports give valuable indicators to business as to long-range market opportunities for the UK and to the investments in science, engineering and technology which will help exploit those opportunities. The reports emphasise the value of partnerships between businesses large and small and the UK's scientists and engineers. The Office of Science and Technology, through the auspices of the research councils, has in place a number of initiatives aimed at building collaboration with, and facilitation and exploitation of, the results of research by industry in general, which includes small businesses.

My Department continues to support Government Departments and agencies in taking forward their competing for quality programmes. These include the market testing and contracting out of many activities employing between one and 20 people before tendering, thus offering opportunities for small firms to bid for work. The Government also publish a monthly bulletin, *Government Opportunities (incorporating the Market Testing Bulletin)*, which details the opportunities for businesses of all sizes.

My Department has also been encouraging Government Departments and agencies to assist business, including small firms, through citizens charter initiatives such as the revised employers charter produced by the Contributions Agency and the charter standard statement and code of practice produced by Companies House.

The CCTA has been developing the CCTA Government information service on Internet to provide a simple electronic channel to provide a wide range of information from Government Departments. The service will open up the opportunity for the public sector to make information both on support to industry and procurement opportunities easily accessible to small businesses.

The CCTA has also been exploring the use of electronic commerce to make it easier for all businesses to get access to procurement notices and to supply to government.

The nature of the products and services purchased by HMSO are such that many contracts are suitable for small businesses. Although there is no specific monitoring, it is estimated that more than 60 per cent. of HMSO contracts are awarded to small businesses.

The Occupational Health and Safety Agency, through its network of regional offices, uses small businesses wherever possible to provide supplies and services, particularly in the area of maintenance. Further, through market testing, opportunities are offered to small firms to compete for work such as blood test analysis, internal audit services and marketing and publicity.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33434]

Mr. Horam: The consultancy firms which have received most contracts from the Cabinet Office, OPS, its agencies, HMSO and COI, are as follows:

1993–94	1994–95
a. Number of contracts	
Fordway (5 contracts)	KPMG Peat Marwick
KPMG Peat Marwick (4)	Glasgow and Associates (4)
Eider Computers (2)	Ametc Consulting (3)
Ernst and Young (2)	Coopers and Lybrand (3)
Glasgow and Associates (2)	Eider Computers (3)
Kudos Oracle (2)	Elaine Brant Management Consultants (3)
MORI (2)	MORI (3)
Price Waterhouse (2)	Touche Ross (3)
Segal Quince Wickstead (2)	
Touche Ross (2)	
b. Monetary Value	
Peterborough Software	Glasgow and Associates
Glasgow and Associates	Ogilvy and Mather
Smith System Engineering	Segal Quince Wickstead
Segal Quince Wickstead	PREST Consultancy
Touche Ross	Touche Ross

Information is not available for earlier years.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33574]

Mr. Horam: The cost of contracts let by the Cabinet Office, its agencies, COI and HMSO is not held centrally in the form requested. The full information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The costs of consultancy contracts let by the Cabinet Office and its agencies in the last three financial years are as follows:

	£
1992–93	4,054,273
1993–94	7,604,190
1994–95	8,085,264

The costs of consultancy contracts awarded by COI and HMSO in the last three financial years are as follows:

	£
COI	
1992–93	136,460
1993–94	66,668
1994–95	162,209
HMSO	
1992	410,075
1993	1,061,025
1994	1,750,750

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33853]

Mr. Horam: The expenditure on computer consultancy by Cabinet Office, Office of Public Service and its agencies and the Central Office of Information for 1993–94 and 1994–95, is as follows:

1993–94: £2,495,500

1994–95: £2,600,000

Similar information for HMSO and the information for earlier years may be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Forecast expenditure on computer consultancy is included with expenditure on computer equipment and cannot readily be identified separately.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34547]

Mr. Horam: The figures include expenditure by the Cabinet Office and No. 10 Downing street and by the Office of Public Service and its agencies.

The top ten suppliers during the period 1993–94 and 1994–95, were:

	£00s
Viglen	1,832
ICL	1,351
DELL	1,340
Hewlett-Packard	947
Rank Xerox	388
Kyocera	357
Elonex	243
Toshiba	122
Compaq	103
Bowe Systems Ltd	85

During this same period, expenditure on "turnkey" solutions was £12,268,000. It is not possible to identify separately the cost of equipment within these packages.

Similar information for the years 1990–91, 1991–92 and 1992–93 is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33883]

Mr. Horam : The firms which have won computer consultancy contracts from the Cabinet Office, Office of Public Service, Recruitment and Assessment Services Agency, Occupational Health Services Agency, Chessington Computer centre, Civil Service college and Central Office of Information in 1993–94 and 1994–95 are as follows:

	1993–94	1994–95
Admiral Management Services	—	1
Amtec	1	4
Butler Bloor	—	1
Computacenter	1	—
CSC Ltd	1	—
Eider	1	3
Fordway	6	—
Gimlet Management Consultants	—	1
IBM	1	—
Kudos	2	—
Netware NFS	1	—
Psy Tech/Framework	1	1
QLC/Formfill	1	2
Secure Information Systems Ltd	—	1
Security and Standards Consultants Ltd	1	1
Smith System Engineering Ltd	1	1
Software Design	1	1
South Bank University	1	—
Touche Ross	1	—
Triad	1	—

Similar information for HMSO and CCTA, and the information for earlier years requested in the question may be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials, to public funds for each year since 1992. [32257]

Mr. Baldry: Since 1992, MAFF Ministers have made a total of 89 overseas visits paid for wholly or partly from public funds. Forty three visits were to EC Councils of Ministers; the remaining visits were in support of bilateral relations, enlargement negotiations and trade promotion. The following details include travel and subsistence costs of MAFF officials, estimated as necessary to the nearest £50. It should be noted that the cost of travel to and from Council meetings is subsequently reimbursed by the EC, subject to certain limits. All the Council meetings involved were Agricultural or Fisheries Councils, unless otherwise stated.

Ministerial visits
Minister (1993)

	Number of officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
18–19 January	+5	Brussels	Council	2,700
24–25 January	+2	Vienna	Meeting with Austrian Minister	1,600
31 January—1 February	+2	Oslo	Meeting with Norwegian Minister	1,500
9–10 February	+5	Brussels	Council	3,200
9–10 March	+2	Italy	Verona Agricultural Show	1,800
16–17 March	+6	Brussels	Council	3,600
26–27 April	+10	Luxembourg	Council	6,700
9–12 May	+2	Turkey	Trade promotion	3,000
16–17 May	+3	Copenhagen	Meeting with Danish Minister	2,000
24–25 May	+8	Brussels	Council	4,600
14–15 June	+2	Luxembourg	Council	1,800
28–29 June	+1	Koldingfjord Denmark	Informal Council	900
19–20 July	+6	Brussels	Council	3,600
6–15 September[1]	+2	South America[1]	Trade promotion	16,000
20–21 September	+4	Brussels	Council	2,700
27–28 September	+1	Ostend	Informal Council	950
12 October	+3	Brussels	Meeting with Commissioner Paleokrassas	1,500
18–19 October	+5	Luxembourg	Council	3,600
3 November	+2	Bonn	Meeting Herr Borchert	1,100
16–17 November	+4	Brussels	Council	2,700
6 December	+3	France	Meeting with M. Puech	1,600
13–16 December	+9	Brussels	Council	8,000

[1]7–8 September Paraguay/9–10 September Uruguay/11–13 September Argentina.

Minister of State (1993)

	Number of Officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
18 March	+7	Brussels	Council	4,500
24 June	+7	Luxembourg	Council	4,500
12 October	+3	Brussels	Meeting with Commissioner Paleokrassas	2,000
14 October	+3	Dublin	Meeting with Irish Minister	1,250
25 September—2 October	+2	India	Trade Promotion	1,200
20 October	+7	Luxenbourg	Council	5,000
21–22 November	+7	Brussels	Council	6,000
18–21 December	+8	Brussels	Council	6,000

Parliamentary Secretary (Lords) (1993)

	Number of Officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
29–30 September	+2	Frankfurt	Plantec International Trade Fair for Horticulture	1,500
15–18 November	+2	Paris and Amsterdam	Visit FFB offices plus visit to supermarkets	2,500
7–8 December	+1	Copenhagen	North Sea Conference	£1,250

Parliamentary Secretary (Commons) (1993)

	Number of Officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost
3 February	+2	Colonge	ISM Food Exhibition	1,200
27 September	+3	Brussels	Council	1,200
11 October (overnight)	+2	Cologne	ANUGA food exhibition	1,200

Minister (1994)

	Number of Officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
24 January	+3	Brussels	Council	1,600
21–22 February	+2	Brussels	Council	1,700
28–29 March	+5	Brussels	Council	3,400
10–12 April	+2	Rodez, France	Meeting with M. Puech	1,200
25–26 April	+6	Luxembourg	Council	3,900
30–31 May	+8	Brussels	Council	4,600
20–24 June	+11	Luxembourg	Council	6,400
18–19 July	+9	Brussels	Council	5,100
5 September	+2	Brussels	Meeting with Commissioner Steichen	1,200
19–20 September	+5	Brussels	Council	3,200
26–27 September	+2	Dusseldorf	Informal Council	1,100
24–25 October	+8	Luxembourg	Council	6,400
14–15 November	+4	Brussels	Council	2,700
22 November	+2	Paris	Meeting with M. Puech	1,250
12–13 December	+9	Brussels	Council	8,000
30 November–3 December	+1	Mexico	Inauguration of new Mexican President	7,000

Minister of State (1994)

	Number of officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
24 January	+3	Brussels	Meeting with Commissioner Paleokrassas	2,000
25 January	+2	Amsterdam	NTV Horticultural Show	1,000
14 March	+3	Cologne	Meeting with Dr. Feiter	1,500
11–12 April	+7	Luxembourg	Council	6,500
9–10 June	+7	Luxembourg	Council	6,500
19–25 September	+2	India	Trade promotion	8,500
27–29 September	+7	Brussels	Council	6,000
9 November	+7	Paris	Meeting with Mr. Peuch	1,350
23 November	+7	Brussels	Council	3,750
18–22 December	+7	Brussels	Council	10,000

Parliamentary Secretary (Lords) (1994)

	Number of officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
31 January—1 February	+2	Cologne	ISM food fair plus meeting with German government on BSE	1,250
5–7 April	+2	China	Trade mission	17,000
6–10 August	+2	Colombia	Inauguration of new President and trade promotion	12,000

Parliamentary Secretary (Commons) (1994)

	Number of officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
28 February/1 March	+2	Paris	SIA plus meeting with French Minister	2,000
30 March	+4	Brussels	Health Council	4,000
8-11 July	+2	New York	Summer Fancy Food Fair; visit to farmers' market; talks with farmers using BST	11,000
29 August/2 September	+2	Brazil	Trade promotion incl. visit to Expointer Show	16,000
19-22 September	+2	Hungary, Slovakia and Austria	Trade promotion with business team	2,000
24 October	+2	Paris	SIAL exhibition	1,250

Minister (1995)

	Number of officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
24–25 January	+3	Brussels	Council	1,300
20–21 February	+6	Brussels	Council	5,800
10–11 April	+5	Luxembourg	Council	4,900
22 May	+3	Bonn	Meeting with Herr Borchert	2,000
29–30 May	+10	Brussels	Council	5,500
19–22 June	+10	Brussels	Council	9,000

Minister of State (1995)

	Number of officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
1 March	+3	Paris	Paris Salon (SIA/SIMA)	1,600
12 May	+2	Brussels	Meeting with Commissioner Bonino	3,500
6 April	+7	Luxembourg	Council	5,000
16 June	+7	Luxembourg	Council	5,000

Parliamentary Secretary (Lords) (1995)

	Number of officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
22 February	+2	Amsterdam	NTV Horticultural Show	725
31 May	+2	Amsterdam	PLMA food exhibition	1,250

Parliamentary Secretary (Commons) (1995)

	Number of officials	Destination	Purpose	Cost £
9–30 January	+6	Cologne	[1]Plus ISM exhibition	4,600
6 February (overnight)	+2	Vienna	[1]—	1,550
8 February	+3	Brussels	[1]—	1,300
13 February	+3	Rotterdam	[1]—	1,100
16–17 February (overnight)	+3	Rome and Lisbon	[1]—	3,700
2 March	+3	Madrid	[1]—	2,000
Total				14,250

[1] All visits were Bilateral talks on promoting production of welfare friendly veal.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the past five years. [33564]

Mr. Boswell: The total number of contracts and their aggregate values for the past five financial years were as follows:

Financial Year	*Number*	*Expenditure*
1990–91	34	4,495,793
1991–92	71	5,374,284
1992–93	111	7,010,814
1993–94	95	12,169,785
1994–95	146	11,551,382

Common Fisheries Policy

Mr. Gill: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will instruct the common fisheries policy review group to examine the principle of equal access to the common resource. [35074]

Mr. Baldry: The UK fishing and industry and other interests have been invited to put their ideas to the common fisheries policy review group, which is free to consider any constructive ideas for improving the conservation and management of fish stocks.

New Zealand Flatworm

Mrs. Wise: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, pursuant to his letter of 10 July, what considerations led him to indicate that commercial confidentiality applies to sightings of the New Zealand flatworm. [35052]

Mr. Boswell: Although the Department has no statutory responsibilities for New Zealand flatworm, it is seeking to give some publicity to the risks which the flatworm poses and to give advice on how they can be minimised. Such advice is particularly relevant to commercial plant growers, who may act as a route for the flatworm to be spread. It is not, however, the Department's intention to publicise information with commercial implications for individual growers. Such publicity could, for example, affect customer attitudes whether or not the grower had taken steps to eliminate the problem. It would also be inappropriate to give details of reports of the New Zealand flatworm when many of these lack official confirmation.

Research and Development

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what proportion of his Department's research and development budget is spent in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Northern Ireland *(e)* abroad; and if he will make a statement. [34889]

Mr. Boswell: The Department commissions a large and continually changing range of research and development to meet its policy aims. Decisions on the placing of work are determined on the basis of scientific and financial considerations and not on the geographical location of contractors. Consequently, the Department does not keep records of its R and D contractors by location. Such information could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

European Union (Statutory Duties)

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what proportion of his Department's statutory duties are the result of EU regulations and directives; and if he will make a statement. [34893]

Mr. Boswell: The information is not readily available and cannot be collected without incurring disproportionate cost.

Dietary Supplements

Mr. Hain: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what information he has concerning steps which are taken by officials of DGXV to ensure that the views of the European Commission on impediments to a single market when considering the possibility of vitamin, mineral and other dietary supplements are not unduly influenced by organised campaigns by companies seeking market advantage; and if he will make a statement. [35099]

Mrs. Browning: DGXV, the consumer affairs directorate of the European Commission, is open to representations from all interested parties on areas within its remit. However, there have been no recent proposals from the Commission to regulate dietary supplements. If any such proposals appear then they shall be circulated to all interested parties for comment.

Mr. Hain: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what steps he is taking to ensure the continued availability of vitamin, mineral and other dietary supplements to United Kingdom consumers; what steps he intends to take in the light of the forthcoming European commission consultation document on such matters to defend the interests of British consumers and nutritional therapists; and if he will make a statement. [35100]

Mrs. Browning: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 20 June, *Official Report*, column *189*.

Mr. Hain: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many officials of his Department have in the past been seconded to work with DGIII; what part such secondees played in drafting the European Commission discussion document on nutritional supplements produced in December 1991; if they have now *(a)* returned to placement with his Department, *(b)* remain with DGIII or *(c)* obtained employment with pharmaceutical companies; and if he will make a statement. [35097]

Mr. Boswell *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* Since 1991, three officials from my Department have been seconded to DGIII of the European Commission. Two of them remain there. The other official was engaged in the drafting of the EC nutritional supplements document and returned to the Department in 1992.

Sandeels

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what action he intends to take to ensure that exploitation rates for sandeels in the North sea are established at an early date in order to secure stocks within safe biological limits. [34916]

Mr. Baldry: The Government pressed successfully for last month's North sea conference to make commitments to investigate the possible effects of industrial fishing on the sustainability both of industrial fish species such as sandeels and of other species which feed on them. I shall press for this work to be done as soon as possible to inform future decisions on exploitation rates.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35305]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in Her Majesty's most Gracious Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

Service Delivery Targets

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what progress his Department has made in meeting service delivery targets set out in "Commitment to Service". [36066]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: I list below the percentages of cases dealt with by each regional service centre which has met the targets set in "Commitment to Service" and, from January 1995, "Commitment to Service", second edition.

RSC comparative performance data (%) for financial year 1994–95 unless otherwise specified

		Bristol	Cambridge	Carlisle	Crewe	Exeter	Northallerton	Nottingham	Reading	Worcester	Total[1]
AAPS	Applications	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	100	99
Advance Oilseeds	Payments	99	98	100	100	100	99	100	100	100	99
Final Oilseeds	Payments	100	100	100	99	100	99	100	99	100	99
Main Payments	Payments	99	95	99	99	100	99	99	99	99	99
BSPS[2]	Applications (B2) 1994	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
	Claims (B5) 1994	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
	Advance Payment 1994	98	96	97	95	98	98	98	99	99	98
SCPS[3]	Claims year 1994	99	92	99	99	99	98	99	99	99	98
HLCA[4]	Claims 1995	89	—	82	86	83	83	90	—	85	85
SAPS	Claims marketing year 1994	93	88	96	96	94	95	94	93	93	94
AIS	Plan claims	90	—	100	100	100	100	100	—	—	99
ESA[5]	Applications	100	100	84	100	99	100	100	100	100	98
	Claims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0
ESA Conservation Plan	Applications	98	100	97	100	100	83	100	100	100	98
	Claims	100	100	96	100	100	100	100	100	—	99
F&CGS 1989	Plan claims	—	—	100	100	100	100	—	—	—	100
	Non plan claims	93	92	98	100	99	99	99	98	100	98
F&CGS 1991	Plan applications	100	100	100	100	98	100	100	—	100	99
	Plan claims	96	95	99	100	99	100	100	93	96	98
FWPS[5]	Applications	100	99	100	100	100	91	96	100	100	98
	Claims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injurious Weeds	Complaints	100	100	—	100	97	96	100	—	100	87
NSA Pilot	Claims	100	—	—	100	—	100	100	95	100	99
1994 (new) NSA Scheme[6]	Applications	—	25	—	70	—	10	2	—	69	29
Protection of Badger Act 1992	Licence applications	95	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99
Five Year Set Aside	Claims	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Short Term Lettings	Applications	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	82	100	98
Strychnine Permits	Applications	97	99	93	100	99	99	99	99	99	95
Wages	Complaints	—	—	100	100	—	100	—	81	—	98
Wildlife and Countryside Act	Applications	91	100	100	100	100	100	100	93	79	97
Correspondence[7]		97	97	90	98	96	97	98	98	95	97

[1] The total percentage has been calculated by setting the entire number of applications or claims cleared within the target time against the total number received.

[2] The period covered is January to December 1994 except for payments where the period covered is 1 November 1994 to 31 January 1995 (or three months from the end of the retention period for claims made after 1 November).

[3] The period covered is July 1994 to March 1995.

[4] The period covered is November 1994 to March 1995.

[5] ESA and FWPS Claims

Due to a combination of changes in FEOGA reimbursement dates and the difficulties of linkage with Charter targets and payment dates, all payments were made after the target date for 1994–95; most were late by two or three weeks.

[6] 1994 (new) NSA Scheme

The majority of applications were received at the end of the application period causing overload. Also, the operation of this new scheme proved more complicated than expected.

[7] The period covered is January to March 1995.

Entries have not been made where the number of cases dealt with were ten or less. However, these numbers have been included in the calculation of total percentage success rates (see footnote 1). The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Scheme and Farm Diversification Grant Scheme have both been omitted from the table as the numbers involved are de minimis.

Decommissioning

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many Welsh fishing vessels were scrapped in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* in 1994–95 as a part of the decommissioning scheme; and if he will make a statement. [34882]

Mr. Baldry: No Welsh vessels were decommissioned under the 1994–95 scheme.

On 14 July I announced details of the 1995 scheme, for which some £12 million is available.

Agriculture Council (Luxembourg)

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the outcome of the Agriculture Council held in Luxembourg on 17 July, and if he will make a statement. [36068]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: The Council had before it a proposal from the Commission for an increase in the tariff quota for imports of third country bananas to cover consumption in the three new member states. Some member states wished to link this issue to wider changes in the present arrangements, so there was no majority for adopting the proposed increase. The Commission is now likely to increase the quota under its own powers.

The Commission had agreed, as part of the package of decisions at the June Council, to make a proposal authorising the payment of national aid to farmers who have suffered loss as a result of currency depreciation in member states other than their own. The Commissioner presented a proposal on these lines which will now go for technical examination. I agreed that this measure should be drawn in such a way as to meet only genuine losses properly attributed to excess currency fluctuations.

I warmly welcomed a statement from the Commissioner that he expected that his promised report on the treatment of calves reared for veal would be available in October. I urged that the Council should consider the report, and appropriate proposals from the Commission, as soon as possible.

During a brief discussion on the rate of set-aside for crops to be harvested in 1996, on which a proposal from the Commission is awaited, I made it clear that I would want an undertaking that the Commission would use its powers to manage the cereals market in such a way that livestock producers would not be faced with grain prices above intended support levels

Denmark presented information about the use of Avoparcin, an animal feed supplement. It was agreed that this material should be assessed as quickly as possible by the appropriate scientific committee. Meanwhile it was established that a majority of member states—Denmark, Germany, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Greece, Netherlands and Luxembourg—opposed the adoption of a Commission proposal to authorise the use of this produce in feed for dairy cows in the Community as a whole.

Set-aside

Mr. Byers: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many farmers have received payment under the set-aside scheme for each year since 1992 by county for *(a)* horse-based activities, *(b)* golf courses, *(c)* game cover for commercial shoots and *(d)* sports grounds; and what is the scale of the land involved and the cost to the set-aside scheme for each category by county. [35023]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the past 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34586]

Mr. Boswell *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* I refer the hon. Member to the replies that I gave on 25 May 1995, *Official Report*, columns *683–84* and 8 June 1995 columns *321–24*.

Common Agricultural Policy

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what estimate he has made of the expenditure by the European Union on the common agricultural policy in 1995; what were the actual figures for each of the previous 10 years; and if he will list United Kingdom domestic expenditure by Her Majesty's Government on agriculture in each of these years. [34422]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The European Commission is forecasting that expenditure on the common agricultural policy in 1995 will be within the budget level of 36,897 mecu, £29,537 million. This is 1,047 mecu, £838 million within the EU guidelines of 37,944 mecu, £30,375 million. Expenditure in 1994 was 32,970 mecu, £25,264 million, some 3,495 mecu, £2,678 million, below the guideline. Details of expenditure on the common agricultural policy in previous years are contained in the annual financial reports on the European agricultural guidance and guarantee fund, guarantee section, copies of which have been deposited in the Library of the House. The latest available report relates to 1993.

Details of United Kingdom expenditure on agriculture from 1988–89 to 1994–95 are contained in table 9.1 of the editions of "Agriculture in the United Kingdom" and for earlier years in table 9.1 of the Government White Papers—"The Annual Review of Agriculture". These publications have also been deposited in the Library of the House.

ENVIRONMENT

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment (1) when the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment was set up; when it became a statutory body; since when it has been a statutory requirement on it to produce an annual report; and if he will make a statement on the availability of earlier committee documents; [34412]

(2) what site was used for the release of genetically modified scorpion venom virus; and why this site was selected; [34409]

(3) what consultation was held with the local population before the release of genetically modified scorpion venom virus; [34410]

(4) what studies were conducted on the possible effects on *(a)* people and *(b)* wildlife of genetically modified scorpion venom virus before its release. [34408]

Mr. Clappison: The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment was first established by the Secretary of State in April 1990. It was then appointed on 29 January 1993 as the statutory body, under the provisions of section 124 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

There is no statutory requirement on the Committee to produce an annual report.

Information on the applications considered by the committee under the provisions of the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 1992 is available on the public register of information maintained by the Department. Full copies of these applications, as well as those considered by the Committee prior to 1993 are available under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 1992. Copies of the official guidance notes produced with the advice of the Committee are available from the Department.

The site used for the release of the genetically modified baculovirus, the so-called "scorpion venom virus", was the University farm, Wytham, Oxfordshire; the site was selected by the applicant, the Institute of Virology and Environmental Microbiology.

The Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 1992 lay down the requirement that anyone making an application for consent to release genetically modified organisms shall publish in a newspaper circulating in the areas likely to be affected by the proposed release a notice containing the following information.

(a) the name and address of the applicant,

(b) the general description of the organisms to be released,

(c) the location and general purpose of the release, and

(*d*) the foreseen date of the release.

The notice invites comments and indicates that further information can be obtained from the applicant and the statutory public register of information maintained by the Department. These requirements were observed by the applicant.

The application from the Institute of Virology and Environmental Microbiology for consent to release genetically modified baculovirus, the so called "scorpion venom virus", included a detailed assessment of the possible risks of harm to human health and the environment. This assessment was based on the applicant's own studies of the virus over several years, and on other studies contained in published literature. The assessment was considered by the scientists in the relevant Departments and by the Health and Safety Executive and the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, and on their recommendation a consent was issued.

British River Monitoring

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what monitoring his Department has carried out on alkyl phenol emonxylates in British rivers. [34637]

Mr. Clappison: The Department does not monitor British rivers. Such monitoring as is appropriate is carried out by the UK regulatory authorities.

Alkyl Phenol Ethoxylates

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answer of 13 March, *Official Report*, column *414*, when the research on alkyl phenol ethoxylates is expected to be completed. [34656]

Mr. Clappison: The reports of a review of current information on possible oestrogenic effects of chemicals including alkyl phenol ethoxylates, entering the environment, and on the effects of sewage effluent on fish, including some data on levels on alkyl phenol ethoxylates in rivers, which are referred to in those answers, will be published in the near future.

Big Splash Site, Wandsworth

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement as to the grounds on which he is allowing evidence that has already been considered or rejected by the inspector in the inquiry concerning the development of the Big Splash site in Mapleton road, Wandsworth SW18, to be reconsidered. [34348]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: It is not unusual for further representations to be made in a planning case after the inquiry is closed. If those representations do no more than repeat issues already addressed at the inquiry, no special action is required. Where new evidence is raised which appears to be material to the case, the principles of natural justice require that the parties to the inquiry have an opportunity of commenting on that evidence before any decision is made.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment on what date he received the report from the inspector he appointed to hold a public inquiry into Wandsworth council's bid for planning permission to develop the Big Splash site in Mapleton road, Wandsworth, London SW18; when he expects to publish it; and if he will make a statement. [34346]

Mr. Jones: The inspector's report was received on 11 October 1994. The report will be published together with the decision letter. This will be as soon as possible after the parties to the inquiry have had the opportunity of commenting on the new evidence.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment in how many planning inquiries into the use of metropolitan open land new evidence has been allowed after the inquiry has closed. [34347]

Mr. Jones: No central record of such circumstances is kept.

Ministerial Responsibilities

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the Ministers responsible for green issues in each Government Department. [34655]

Mr. Clappison: The Green Ministers are as follows:

Department	*Minister*
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Tim Boswell MP
Chancellor's Departments	David Heathcoat-Amory MP
Defence	The Earl Howe
Education and Employment	Robin Squire MP
Environment	The Rt. Hon. John Gummer MP
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hanley MP
Overseas Development Administration	The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hanley MP
Health	The Baroness Cumberlege CBE
Home Office	The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Blatch CBE
Law Officers'	The Rt. Hon. Sir Derek Spencer QC MP
Lord Chancellor's	John M. Taylor MP
National Heritage	Lord Inglewood
Northern Ireland Office	Malcolm Moss MP
Office of Public Service	John Horam MP
Scottish Office	The Earl of Lindsay
Social Security	Roger Evans MP
Trade and Industry	Richard Page MP
Transport	The Rt. Hon. Sir George Young MP
Welsh Office	The Rt. Hon. William Hague MP

Construction Industry

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has for implementation of the Latham report on the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [35184]

Mr. Clappison: The Government have taken a strong lead in the implementation of the recommendations in "Constructing the Team", together with other members of the Construction Industry Board. Two consultation documents have been issued by the Government on legislative proposals arising from the recommendations, and the responses are being considered. The success of the report depends ultimately on a culture change within the construction industry, which the Government are actively supporting and encouraging.

Home Renovation Grants

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many homes were improved with the benefit of home renovation grants, excluding minor works and disabled facilities grants, in 1994; and what were the figures for 1984. [33338]

Mr. Clappison: Information about home renovation grants in England is shown in the quarterly and annual publication "Housing and Construction Statistics". Figures of amounts paid during 1994 are shown in table 2.17 of the December 1994 issue of part 2 of the quarterly edition of this publication and those for 1984 are shown in table 7.2 of the 1983–93 issue of the annual edition of this publication.

Copies of these publications are in the Library.

Council House Investment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what has been the standard spending assessment for council house investment for each of the last five years. [34191]

Mr. Clappison: The annual capital guidelines allocated to local authorities as part of the housing investment programme for the last five years are:

1991–92: £1,342,500 million
1992–93: £1,289,896 million
1993–94: £1,377,612 million
1994–95: £1,037.982 million
1995–96: £994.229 million

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment in what circumstances he will make it his policy to increase investment in council housing. [34192]

Mr. Clappison: Every year, as part of the housing investment programme, local housing authorities receive their annual capital guideline allocations for capital expenditure on housing. They can also bid for resources from the housing partnership fund and the single regeneration budget challenge fund. In addition, local authorities fund capital expenditure on housing from usable capital receipts and revenue contributions to capital. It is up to local housing authorities to decide how much of their available resources should be invested in council housing according to local needs. Local authorities should also be considering transferring their stock to new social landlords since this is one of the best ways of bringing in private resources to renovate and improve social rented housing.

Housing

Mr. Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he expects to issue revised planning guidance note 3. [35190]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: I have no immediate plans for issuing a revised planning policy guidance note 3 (Housing).

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the extent of repairs needed on local authority housing, in each region, indicating the cost of these repairs *(a)* per region and *(b)* in total. [34193]

Mr. Clappison: Figures for repairs to local authority housing are provided by the quinquennial English house condition survey. The figures from the 1991 survey are as follows:

Region	*£ million*
Northern	361
Yorkshire/Humberside	442
North West	541
East Midlands	259
West Midlands	424

Region	£ million
South West	265
Eastern	312
Greater London	657
South East	235
Merseyside	175
Total	3,671

Figures are in 1991 prices.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the level of funding currently provided for the provision of affordable housing in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* each European Union country and *(c)* each G7 country. [34194]

Mr. Clappison: In England in 1994–95, a total of £8.6 billion was spent on housing benefit to help social and private sector tenants on low incomes with their rents. Some £4.9 billion was spent on "bricks and mortar" spending to provide social housing at below-market rents and low-cost home ownership opportunities to households who might otherwise rent in the social sector and to help with the costs of maintaining and running council housing.

The comparable information requested in *(b)* is not available because of differing forms of subsidy in other countries. Information on levels of funding in the European Community can be found in "Statistics on Housing in the European Community 1993" which is available in the Library.

No information is readily available on levels of funding in G7 countries.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of local authorities establishing local public housing corporations to provide affordable housing. [34195]

Mr. Clappison: Borrowing by local housing corporations to provide affordable housing, although outside some fiscal indicators, such as the general Government financial deficit, would be within the public sector borrowing requirement. Moreover, if increased borrowing were supported by higher rents, it would increase expenditure on housing benefit which is within GGFD. The establishment of local housing corporations is unlikely therefore to be a means of permitting unrestricted borrowing for any purpose. The White Paper "Our Future Homes" (Cm 2901) explains that the transfer of council housing to new landlords which are private sector bodies is an effective way of generating increased investment. This requires no changes to public borrowing conventions.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what discussions he has had with the Chancellor to exclude local public housing corporations from the remit of the public sector borrowing requirement. [34191]

Mr. Clappison: None.

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his reply of 25 May, *Official Report*, column *792*, what is his estimate of the additional homes which would have been provided by rehabilitation and under any other programmes under the Housing Corporation's standard headings in 1995–96, if funding levels as announced in the 1992 autumn statement had been maintained. [35175]

Mr. Clappison: The Housing Corporation estimates that the 1995–96 approved development programme would have provided a total of around 32,000 additional homes if the funding levels announced in the 1992 autumn statement had been maintained, comprising:

	Number
New Build for rent	22,000
Rehabilitation for rent	3,000
Incentives and shared ownership (400 of which would have been rehabilitation for shared ownership)	7,000

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has to ensure that persons from abroad in the United Kingdom illegally or temporarily will not be able to obtain publicly subsidised housing. [36067]

Mr. Curry: The Government announced proposals for fairer access to local authority and housing association tenancies on 18 July 1994. The proposals envisaged that people here illegally and people who were granted entry to this country on the understanding that they will have no recourse to public funds should not be entitled to receive assistance under the homelessness legislation.

Subsequently, we have concluded that such people should not be entitled to tenancies of social housing allocated by local housing authorities. Provisions for this will be included in the legislation that we shall bring forward on access to social housing at the earliest opportunity.

Homelessness

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what provisions of housing legislation govern the priority to be given to a homeless parent without custody but with staying access; and if he will make a statement. [35138]

Mr. Clappison: The homelessness legislation—part III of the Housing Act 1985—provides that a person with whom dependent children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside has priority need for accommodation. The *Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities* (revised third edition), to which authorities must have regard, advised that a child may be dependent upon a homeless applicant even though the child does not live with the applicant at all times.

Nuclear Waste

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will set out the timetable provided to BNFL for the submission of further proposals on waste substitution, as mentioned in paragraph 141 of the White Paper on radioactive waste management policy, CM2919. [35160]

Mr. Clappison: No timetable has yet been established.

Mr. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has to introduce legislation to implement the proposal contained in paragraph 87 of the White Paper on radioactive waste management policy, CM 2919, to ensure full transparency and public consultation on the site selection for high-level waste disposal. [35161]

Mr. Clappison: The White Paper says that the Government propose to consider how in future they might meet concerns regarding the need for transparency of decision making and public reassurance—for instance, by setting out guidelines for the developers of repositories about the need for transparency in site selection, including the publication of research results, and the specific milestones to be covered in this process. They have no current plans for legislation.

Safe Water Standards

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment why United Kingdom safe water standards fell from 100 per cent. in urban areas to 99.6 per cent., between 1980 and 1990 according to statistics published by the World Health Organisation publication "Progress Towards Health for All." [35151]

Mr. Clappinson: The difference between the figures for 1980 and 1990 is due to the fact that the World Health Organisation revised, and made stricter, its guidelines for drinking water quality. The change does not imply that water was unsafe to drink.

Since 1990, the Drinking Water Inspectorate has checked the quality of drinking water in England and Wales against the standards set in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 1989. These standards are stricter than those recommended by the World Health Organisation in its 1984 guidelines for drinking water quality, which were current in 1989. The Drinking Water Inspectorate's latest annual report shows that in the calendar year 1994, the water companies in England and Wales carried out approximately 3.5 million tests, of which 99.3 per cent. met the relevant standard in the regulations. None of those which did not meet the standards constituted unsafe water.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Caborn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what representations he has received on difficulties caused for local authority financing or re-financing by comments made in the case of Credit Suisse *v.* Allerdale; what is the Government's policy on acquiring the use of borrowed money and avoiding the impact of controls; and what comparison he has made with the decision in City Centre Leisure (Holdings) Limited *v.* Westminster on the issue of acquiring the use of borrowed money; [35580]

(2) what assessment the Government have made of the use by local authorities of financial structures which minimise the impact of a project on a local authority's borrowing, expenditure or credit limits; [35578]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect of the Allerdale case on the orderly rescheduling of existing off-balance sheet obligations of local authorities by means of deferred purchase commitments or the processing of various private finance initiatives opportunities; and if he will discuss the Government's policy in this area with the Audit Commission; [35577]

(4) what assessment has been made of the difference between the position where a local authority uses a company for fund raising and where an independent contractor borrows to fund the performance of work or the provision of services to the council for reward; [35581]

(5) what assessment has been made by his Department on the extent of the use of private finance initiative to enable projects to go ahead without the costs and borrowing relating to such projects falling on the balance sheets of local authorities; and what is his Department's policy on whether their practice is appropriate. [35579]

Mr. Curry: I will write to the hon. Member.

Mortgage Indemnities

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns *332–33*, if he will list the total number of mortgage indemnities and the average value for each local authority listed. [35440]

Mr. Clappison: I will write to the hon. Member.

County Hall

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the environment what meetings his Department has had with Shirayama Corporation on its plans for county hall in each of the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [35412]

Sir Paul Beresford: While briefing himself for the Public Accounts Committee hearing on 1 May 1995, my Department's permanent Secretary made a site visit to county hall in April during which he met Shirayama's United Kingdom representative.

Contaminated Land

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what estimate he has made of the costs to local authorities of carrying out investigations of land that my be contaminated, prior to issuing a remediation notice; and what provision exists for local authorities to recoup these costs and from whom if *(a)* a remediation notice is required and *(b)* no remediation notice is required. [35351]

Mr. Clappison: Site investigation costs vary greatly between sites, depending on the nature of the contaminants predicted to be present on the site and on the size of the site. The typical cost per hectare of investigations also varies with the overall size of the site being investigated. The Department of the Environment has commissioned consultants, WS Atkins Environment, to review the typical range of costs for different kinds of work.

Each borough or district council already has a duty, under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, to cause its area to be inspected from time to time to detect any statutory nuisances—including such nuisances caused by contaminated land. The contaminated land provisions in part II of the Environment Bill, which will form part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990,

will provide a similar duty for contaminated land, as specifically defined in those provisions.

The new regime does not provide for local authorities to recover costs they incur in investigating land prior to the service of a remediation notice. However, once land has been identified as contaminated land, a remediation notice can include a requirement for a more detailed assessment of the condition of the land to be carried out by the recipient of the notice.

The supplementary credit approval programme for contaminated land provides capital resources to local authorities for site investigation and remediation work. Since the inception of the programme in 1990, some £54 million has been spent on investigation or remediation on over 800 sites.

Air Pollution

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what information the Government have about levels of pollution in urban areas; and if he will provide the most recent available figures so as to enable a comparison to be made between Manchester and other areas. [35381]

Mr. Clappison: The Government monitor air pollution in urban areas through their automated urban network. The monitoring site in Manchester measures continuously concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide. Comparisons between Manchester and other selected areas of recorded concentrations of these pollutants in 1994 are as follows:

	Nitrogen dioxide		*Carbon monoxide*	
	Peak hourly concentration (ppb)[2]	*Annual mean concentration (ppb)*[2]	*Peak hourly concentration (ppb)*[3]	*Annual mean concentration (ppb)*[3]
Manchester	352	26	17.8	0.5
Liverpool	97	26	5.8	0.6
Leeds	131	28	12.8	0.7
London[1]	235	44	11.0	2.0
Cardiff	264	22	7.2	0.9
Belfast	100	21	16.3	0.7
Glasgow	132	26	7.7	0.7

[1] Cromwell Road.
[2] Parts per billion.
[3] Parts per million.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server know as "www.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34676]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Department has set up pages on the Government world wide web server known as "www.open.gov.uk." Currently, the DoE pages include information on: the Department's responsibilities; air quality information; the housing white paper; and basic credit approvals. All of the Department's press notices are published on the Central Office of Information pages—reference "http://www.coi.gov.uk/coi/depts/GNV/GNV.htm1"—and can be accessed through the DoE page.

Officials are examining the feasibility of publishing a wider range of Departmental information via the Internet.

Green Ministers

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans there are for an annual report on the work of the green Ministers; and if he will make a statement. [34635]

Mr. Clappison: Green Ministers have already published a "Digest of Green Housekeeping in Government Departments" in May this year. In addition, each Department's annual report contains material on its environmental performance, including the name of the Green Minister. The Government report collectively on its sustainable development strategy in its annual environment White Papers.

Water Industry

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what assessment he has made of whether more competition in the water industry would lower prices and increase supply. [34378]

Mr. Clappison: In his policy document "Competition in the Water Industry: inset appointments and their regulation"—Ofwat, July 1995—the Director General of Water Services states that introducing competition at the wholesale level via the ability to make inset appointments has influenced prices through the introduction of more cost-reflective tariffs for larger customers. He recommends that competition between water companies would be further facilitated by changes to legislation. My right hon. Friend will consider these proposals.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will seek to lower the 250 megalitre limit on inset appointments for water under the Competition and Service (Utilities) Act 1992. [34377]

Mr. Clappison: The Director General of Water Services has a duty to facilitate effective competition in the water industry. In response to recommendations made by the director general at the time, the Competition and Service (Utilities) Act 1992 extended his ability to make inset appointments to existing customers supplied with 250 megalitres or more of water annually. My right hon. Friend would be happy to consider proposals for a change to this limit should the director general recommend it.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has to consider new proposals to allow the use of existing water pipes by other water suppliers under a common carrier agreement. [34376]

Mr. Clappison: In his recent policy paper, "Competition in the Water Industry: inset appointments and their regulation"—Ofwat, July 1995—the Director General of Water Services has suggested that there may be circumstances in which it may be practicable to place a limited common carriage obligation on water companies to supply single customer inset appointments. The director general noted that there would need to be careful consideration of the implications for water quality. My right hon. Friend will need to satisfy himself of the implications before developing any proposals for change.

Subsidence

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, column *159*, if he will place in the Library *(a)* the extract of the British Geological Survey ground hazard assessment for Hampshire and *(b)* his Department's maps and database on susceptibility to subsidence for Hampshire. [35509]

Sir Paul Beresford: The British Geological Survey's ground hazard assessment programme is a commercially operated service, access to which can be obtained through the survey at Keyworth, Nottingham.

My Department's maps of landslides, mining instability and natural underground cavities in Hampshire, together with the relevant databases and the map of shrinkable clay in Hampshire will be placed in the Library when they are available.

These maps show only the information that was available to the consultants who carried out the research projects for my Department. Their interpretation to determine susceptibility to subsidence requires earth science expertise and the absence of ornamentation on any part of the map does not necessarily imply that the ground is not susceptible to subsidence.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35313]

Mr. Gummer: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

Probationary Tenancies

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what conclusions he has reached in the light of responses to his proposals on probationary tenancies, issued for consultation on 5 April. [36065]

Mr. Curry: The consultation exercise indicated a clear consensus that anti-social behaviour by a minority of council tenants and others is a serious problem, which needs to be tackled on a broad front. Local authorities already have a variety of means at their disposal to deal with such behaviour. The Government want to help authorities to deal more effectively with the problem and are working with the local authority associations to consider a number of measures to that end.

The consultation confirmed that the introduction of probationary tenancies would have a role to play as part of authorities' broader strategies for tackling anti-social behaviour in their areas. The Government therefore propose to legislate at the earliest available opportunity to give authorities powers to introduce probationary tenancies in their areas if they wish to do so. It will thus be for individual authorities to decide whether, in the particular circumstances of their areas, probationary tenancies—now to be called introductory tenancies at the suggestion of a number of respondents—should form part of their wider approach to the problem of anti-social behaviour. They will no doubt wish to consult their existing tenants before doing so.

A number of points were made by respondents about the practical operation of introductory tenancies, including the need to safeguard the position of vulnerable people whose behaviour is different but not necessarily anti-social. As the consultation paper made clear, the taking away of someone's home is very much a measure of last resort, which authorities will wish to use only where other measures have been tried and failed. The Government would expect authorities to act as scrupulously before issuing an introductory tenant with a notice to quit as they would before seeking to repossess the home of a secure tenant. Authorities operating a system of introductory tenancies will need to have in place fair and rigorous procedures which command the confidence of all tenants and ensure, for example, that no tenant's home could be put at risk through malicious or otherwise bogus complaints. Similarly, authorities will need to handle vulnerable tenants with particular care and sensitivity.

The Government propose to prepare guidance for local authorities, in collaboration with the local authority associations and other interested parties, on operating introductory tenancy arrangements. This will include the process whereby a tenant served with a notice to quit may ask the authority to review its decision.

The Government intend that the broad shape of the legislation should follow the proposals issued for consultation. There are, however, a number of subsidiary issues which are currently being considered in the light of comments made by respondents.

The Government believe that introductory tenancies can be a useful additional weapon for local authorities in their fight to defend tenants' rights to quiet enjoyment of their homes by enabling them to take rapid action to remove the small number of badly behaved new tenants. The responsible majority of new tenants have nothing to fear from introductory tenancies. They can expect to become secure tenants once they have served the introductory period.

Some 230 responses were received from organisations and individuals in England. About another 30 bodies responded to the separate consultation exercise held by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales. A list of respondents has been placed in the Library. Copies of the responses themselves may be inspected at 2 Marsham street in London and Cathays park in Cardiff.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answers to the hon. Member for Rother Valley of 10 July, *Official Report*, columns *459–63*, how many appeals to the Secretary of State for permission to create landfill sites have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused (i) without and (ii) following the holding of a public inquiry in each year since 1991. [34436]

Sir Paul Beresford: Responsibility for the subject of the question has been delegated to the Planning Inspectorate under its chief executive, Mr. Chris Shepley. I have asked him to arrange a reply to be given.

Letter from C. J. Shepley to Mr. Kevin Barron, dated 17 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question about:

—the number of appeals to the Secretary of State for permission to create landfill sites that have been (a) granted and (b) refused (i) without and (ii) following the holding of a public inquiry in each year since 1991.

as this is a matter that has been delegated to the Executive Agency.

The attached table shows the number of planning appeal decisions involving the creation of landfill sites made in each year since 1991, the procedure by which the appeals were determined and the outcome.

Landfill Sites: Planning Appeals

Year	Appeals determined following a Public Inquiry			Appeals determined following a Hearing			Appeals determined following an exchange of Written Representations			Total		
	Total	Allowed	Dismissed	Total	Allowed	Dismissed	Total	Allowed	Dismissed		Allowed	Dismissed
1991	2	1	1	1	0	1	11	9	2	14	10	4
1992	15	9	6	0	0	0	6	4	2	21	13	8
1993	5	2	3	4	3	0	11	9	2	21	14	6
1994	10	5	5	0	0	0	3	1	2	13	6	7
1995	3	3	0	1	1	0	3	2	1	7	6	1

Single Regeneration Budget

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he intends to issue regional guidance for the second round of bidding for the single regeneration budget. [34064]

Sir Paul Beresford: Bidding guidance for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund was issued on 12 April 1995 and partnerships wishing to submit bids were required to send outline bids to Government offices for the regions by 16 June. We do not intend to publish any further guidance.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the outline bids received by the government offices for the regions for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund by 16 June, including the lead partner, the value of the bid and a summary of the content of the bid. [34360]

Mr. Curry: Copies of the outline bids submitted by bidders in the form set out in annexe B of the bidding guidance for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund, which include the information requested by the hon. Member, will be placed in the Library of the House shortly, with the exception of those bids which bidders themselves have requested should not be made public for reasons of confidentiality.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the status of advice given by a Government office for the regions to a partnership submitting an outline bid for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund. [34358]

Mr. Curry: The status of advice given by Government offices for the regions to partnerships submitting an outline bid for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund is set out in paragraph 15 of the bidding guidance for the second round, issued on 12 April 1995, copies of which are in the Library of the House. This states that the advice given by Government offices is intended to give an indication to bidders of the extent to which their bids meet the objectives and criteria for the challenge fund and merit working up. Where bidders decide to proceed with final bids the paragraph goes on to make it clear that information and advice given by Government offices is without prejudice to Ministers' decisions on the final bids.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list for each region *(a)* the number and value of full bids submitted for the first round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund in September 1994, *(b)* the number and value of bids supported by the Government in the first round of allocations announced in December 1994 and *(c)* the number of outline bids submitted for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund in June. [34356]

Mr. Curry: The information requested is in the table.

	Challenge fund round one				*Challenge fund round two*
	Number of final bids submitted	*Approximate value £ million value of final bids submitted (estimated over lifetime)*	*Number of final bids supported*	*[1]£ million value of final bids supported (estimated over lifetime)*	*[2]Number of outline bids submitted*
London	124	800	49	316	202
Yorkshire and Humberside	38	370	22	202	58
Eastern	24	37	13	21	44

	Challenge fund round one				Challenge fund round two
	Number of final bids submitted	Approximate value £ million value of final bids submitted (estimated over lifetime)	Number of final bids supported	[1]£ million value of final bids supported (estimated over lifetime)	[2]Number of outline bids submitted
South east	52	80	19	32	66
North west	56	240	21	143	96
Merseyside	23	135	14	78	26
South west	34	100	10	34	66
West Midlands	37	280	13	157	73
East Midlands	26	110	11	56	43
North east	55	180	29	81	99
Total	469	2,332	201	1,120	773

[1] Subject to availability of resources.
[2] Provisional figures.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the steps he has taken to achieve a consistent approach by the Government offices for the regions in handling the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund. [34354]

Mr. Curry: As with the first challenge fund bidding round, the availability of national bidding guidance, with common objectives and assessment criteria, provides a nationally consistent framework within which second round bids will be assessed by Government offices.

In addition, the second round bidding arrangements include a more structured outline bidding stage, with a pro-forma requiring common information from all bidders; and a requirement for bidders to prioritise the elements in their bid and to specify whether and how their bid could be scaled up or down. Three seminars have also been held for over 150 Government office staff dealing with bids at which those attending participated in case study exercises and discussed arrangements for handling second round bids. These seminars are in addition to arrangements put in place by Government offices themselves to ensure that bids are considered in accordance with the bidding guidance.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will outline the timetable and procedure to be adopted by the Government offices for the regions in responding to the outline bids received for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund. [34359]

Mr. Curry: The timetable and procedure to be adopted by Government offices for the regions in responding to outline bids received for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund are set out in paragraphs 15 to 17 inclusive and annexe H of the bidding guidance for the second round, issued on 12 April 1995, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will outline the role of Ministers in deciding which of the partnerships submitting outline bids for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund should be encouraged to submit full bids. [34357]

Mr. Curry: The arrangements for considering second round SRB challenge fund bids are set out in the bidding guidance issued on 12 April, copies of which are in the Library of the House. In particular, paragraph 15 explains that it is for Government offices to give an indication to bidders on the extent to which their bids meet the objectives and criteria for the challenge fund and merit working up. Ministers are provided with summary information about all outline bids. They take decisions on the final bids received in the light of recommendations from Government offices.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what representations he has received on means of improving the co-ordination of single regeneration bids at a local level; and what steps he has taken to achieve this. [34355]

Mr. Curry: The local authority associations have proposed that the Government should give priority to bids supported by local co-ordinating groups established and co-ordinated by local authorities with training and enterprise councils. Paragraph 11 of the bidding guidance for round 2 already makes it clear that local authorities and TECs can be expected to have a central role in bringing together challenge fund partnerships. The Government do not, however, wish to exclude or discourage other organisations, including the private, voluntary and community sectors, which may be capable of playing a lead role in encouraging local partnerships, and not intend to allocate to any group a privileged position in the bidding process.

Road Inquiries

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the longest time that a road inquiry has taken to give public evidence in the last 10 years; which was the inquiry; and when it occurred. [34338]

Sir Paul Beresford: The longest road inquiry held in recent years was the A36 Salisbury bypass inquiry conducted by Sir Peter Buchanan. It opened on 20 April 1993 and closed on 27 April 1994, having sat for 151 days.

Mr. O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answer of 27 June, *Official Report*, column *594*, how many road inquiries have taken place in each of the last 10 years; and if he will list them and the length of time each lasted. [34339]

Sir Paul Beresford: The number of motorway, trunk road and local authority road inquiries held in England in the last 10 years for which figures are available is as follows:

April 1993–March 1994: 74
April 1992–March 1993: 72
April 1991–March 1992: 73
April 1990–March 1991: 98
April 1989–March 1990: 94
April 1988–March 1989: 81
April 1987–March 1988: 75
April 1986–March 1987: 95
January 1985–March 1986: 120
January 1984–December 1984: 110

(All figures taken from the Chief Planning Inspector's Annual Reports).

It would be very time consuming to list the inquiries and to ascertain the length of time which each lasted, and such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the conduct of the Birmingham northern relief road inquiry, the manner of taking evidence and the time it is taking to hear that evidence. [34339]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Birmingham northern relief road inquiry is being conducted by an independent inspector nominated by the Lord Chancellor and is proceeding in accordance with the Highways (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1976. This is a particularly complex inquiry into the first inland tolled motorway promoted under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. The inquiry is expected to continue into October 1995, and there will be about three weeks of site inspections after it has closed.

NATIONAL HERITAGE

National Lottery

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will express the value of instant lottery cards sold per week as a proportion of total national lottery sales; and if she will make a statement. [34945]

Mr. Sproat: This is an operational matter for the Office of the National Lottery. I have therefore asked the director-general of the national lottery, to write to the hon. Member, placing copies of his response in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what proportion of national lottery tickets are sold in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [34946]

Mr. Sproat: This is an operational matter for the Office of the National Lottery. I have therefore asked the director-general of the national lottery, to write to the hon. Member, placing copies of his response in the Libraries of the House.

Sport (Expenditure)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what plans she has, in co-operation with the Secretary of State for the Environment, to make the role of local authorities in sports provision a separate consideration in the standard spending assessment formula, following the reorganisation of the Sports Council. [34772]

Mr. Sproat: We have no plans to make sports provision a separate consideration in the standard spending assessment formula.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) when she will publish the Government's paper on digital audio broadcasting; [34068]

(2) when she will announce the Government's plans for digital television. [34065]

Mr. Sproat: The Government intend to publish a policy document on digital broadcasting, including both television and radio, later this summer.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how she intends to extend choice and diversity in independent radio at both the local and national levels. [34072]

Mr. Sproat: This is a matter for the Radio Authority to determine. The Government are making spectrum available for digital audio broadcasting which should offer new opportunities at both national and local levels to enhance the range of choice for listeners.

Tower Hill Excavations

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what assistance her Department is giving to the Museum of London archaeology service's excavations on Tower hill of the late Roman church; and if she will make a statement. [33632]

Mr. Sproat: My Department does, of course, give funds to the Museum of London but no extra assistance is being provided by my Department for these excavations. I am pleased to learn that provision has been made for archaeological excavation and analysis of the site, and that this has led to the discovery of Roman and later remains.

Environment Action Fund

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage, pursuant to her answer of 27 June, *Official Report*, column *598*, if funds from the national lottery may be used to match grant assistance from the environmental action fund. [33702]

Mr. Sproat: I understand that the rules under which the environmental action fund is administered require applicants to secure matching funding from non-public sector sources. Funds provided by the national lottery distributing bodies are classified as public expenditure and cannot, therefore, be counted as matching funding for EAF purposes.

Regional Sports Councils

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what are her aims for *(a)* the West Midlands council for sport and recreation and *(b)* other regional sports councils. [34771]

Mr. Sproat: On 29 March, the then Secretary of State confirmed that the present linkage between the Sports Council and the regional councils for sport and recreation will come to an end from 1 January 1996. I hope that local authorities will set up their own machinery to co-ordinate their wider regional strategies.

Mr. Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what level of funding for the West Midlands council for sport and recreation is expected as a result of the implementation of proposals for the English Sports Council; and what is the current level. [34768]

Mr. Sproat: At present, the cost to the Sports Council of servicing the West Midlands regional council for sport and recreation is £18,500 per annum. Under our restructuring proposals, the linkage between the Sports Council and the RCSRs will cease.

Sports (Lottery)

Mr. Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will ask the Sports Council to review its policy of requiring the full 35 per cent. of private funding to be secured before an application for national lottery funding is submitted. [35109]

Mr. Sproat: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has directed all the distributing bodies to ensure that a significant element of partnership funding is forthcoming from non-lottery sources. The Sports Council does not wish to debar applicants from applying purely on the basis that they cannot raise such funds. However, demonstrating the financial commitment of other parties to a project is a powerful expression of support for the scheme, and by minimising the financial contribution from the lottery assistance can be offered to a larger number of applicants. It should be noted that the percentage is purely indicative. If the Sports Council believes that a scheme which is unable to raise the indicative percentage is worthy of support, a grant offer could still be made.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what amount of national lottery funds has gone to west midlands sport; and what is her estimate of funding from that source in the next financial year. [34770]

Mr. Sproat: Twenty-eight awards from the lottery sports fund, totalling £7,389,714, have been made to projects in the west midlands. It is impossible to estimate the future level of lottery funding. This will depend upon ticket sales and on the number of eligible projects that come forward.

Media Ownership

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage, when she plans to implement the changes in primary legislation set out in the cross media ownership Green Paper. [34069]

Mr. Sproat: The changes in primary legislation, set out in "Media Ownership: The Government's proposals", Cmd 2872, will be introduced at the earliest legislative opportunity. Confirmation of the Government's legislative programme is given through the Queen's Speech at the opening of each parliamentary Session.

Community Radio

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what plans she has to encourage the development of community radio services in the United Kingdom. [34073]

Mr. Sproat: The Government support the introduction of new radio services which cater for the needs, tastes and interests of local communities. It is for the Radio Authority to determine how to achieve this expansion of listener choice. Digital audio broadcasting could offer new opportunities.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what plans she has to meet representatives of the Community Radio Association. [34074]

Mr. Sproat: I have no plans at present to meet representatives of the Community Radio Association, who are in regular touch with my officials.

Independent National Radio Licences

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what plans she has to change the renewal procedure for the independent national radio licences. [34071]

Mr. Sproat: I have no plans at present to alter the licensing arrangements for independent national radio services which, under the provisions of the Broadcasting Act 1990, do not allow for renewal without competition.

Chess

Mr. Stern: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage, pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye (Mrs. Lait), of 27 March, *Official Report*, column *482*, when he now expects to announce his conclusions as to whether it would be appropriate and practicable for his Department to take an interest in sponsoring chess. [32688]

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will make a statement about departmental responsibility for chess. [33023]

Mr. Sproat: I can confirm that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has agreed with the Secretary of State for Education and Employment that from the beginning of the next financial year my Department will take on the future funding of chess.

Legislation

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what legislation she plans to introduce; and if she will make a statement. [35310]

Mr. Sproat: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

County Hall

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what inspections have been made by officials of her Department of county hall SE1; and what recommendations have been made regarding listed building consent in respect of the building. [35413]

Mr. Sproat: County hall was last inspected by officials from English Heritage on 23 June. The building is weathertight and in good condition for its age. In recent years, the Secretary of State for the Environment has determined several appeals on planning and listed building consent applications for county hall.

Brodsworth Hall

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage, pursuant to her answer of 15 June, *Official Report*, column *605*, if she will list the individuals and organisations who have been invited to the official opening of Brodsworth hall since 15 June. [33629]

Mr. Sproat *[pursuant to his reply, 15 June 1995, c.605]:* I have today placed in the Library a copy of the list of those guests who were invited to the official opening of Brodsworth hall after 15 June.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list the foreign visits made by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in the last year indicating the cost of each visit. [31283]

Mr. Burt: The information requested is in the table.

Date of visit	*Minister*	*Place and purpose of visit*	*Total cost* £
9 September 1994	William Hague, Minister of State	USA Fact-finding visit about disability anti-discrimination legislation,	6,813.59
27 October 1994	Peter Lilley, Secretary of State	Madrid Speech at pensions conference	2,185.82
1 February 1995	Peter Lilley, Secretary of State	Paris Informal Social Affairs Council	2,445.17
11 May 1995	Peter Lilley, Secretary of State	Switzerland Fact-finding visit about Swiss Social Security system	1,133.75
29 May 1995	Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, Minister of State	Lisbon Sixth Conference of European Social Security Ministers	3,088.60

Notes:
The Secretary of State was accompanied by his Special Adviser on his visits to Madrid and Paris.
"Total cost" includes the cost of those accompanying the Minister at public expense.

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials, to public funds for each year since 1992. [32258]

Mr. Burt: The information is in the tables.

Secretary of State

Date and duration of visit	*Minister*	*Numbers accompanying*	*Place and purpose of visit*	*Cost* £
15 April 1992	Peter Lilley	0	Recalled from France to attend Cabinet and departmental meetings	1,045.00
1 September 1992	Peter Lilley	0	Recalled from France to attend departmental meetings	2,980.00
29 January–1 February 1993	Peter Lilley	0	Zurich To attend World Economic Forum	735.00
7 April 1993	Peter Lilley	0	Returned from France to launch Child Support Agency	324.10
7–8 November 1993	Peter Lilley	0	Paris Meeting with French Social Security Minister	165.00
27–28 October 1994	Peter Lilley	4	Madrid Speech at pensions conference	2,185.82

Secretary of State

Date and duration of visit	Minister	Numbers accompanying	Place and purpose of visit	Cost £
1–2 February 1985	Peter Lilley	4	Paris Informal Social Affairs Council	2,445.17
11–12 May 1995	Peter Lilley	1	Switzerland Fact-finding visit about Swiss Social Security	1,133.75

Minister of State

Date and duration of visit	Minister	Numbers accompanying	Place and purpose of visit	Cost £
20–21 May 1992	Nicholas Scott	0	Limerick Council of Europe, Conference of Social Security Ministers	143.35
23–24 May 1992	Nicholas Scott	2	Luxembourg Social Affairs Council	1,006.86
2–5 September 1992	Nicholas Scott	2	Barcelona Paralympic Games and bilateral meeting with Spanish Minister of State	1,303.68
7–11 October 1992	Nicholas Scott	2	Montreal International meeting Ministers	4,473.90
11–13 October 1992	Nicholas Scott	2	New York UN General Assembly	3,012.90
8–9 December 1992	Nicholas Scott	1	Paris OECD meeting	456.78
27 May–6 June 1993	Nicholas Scott	6	China Fact-finding visit about disability issues	13,926.30
9–10 November 1993	Nicholas Scott	1	Brussels Informal Social Affairs Council	550.62
17–20 March 1994	Nicholas Scott	3	Lillehammer Paralympic Games	1,275.00
29–31 May 1995	Lord MacKay	3	Lisbon Sixth Conference of European Social Security Ministers	3,088.60
9–15 September 1995	William Hague	2	USA Fact-finding visit about disability anti-discrimination legislation	6,813.59

Parliamentary Secretary

Date and duration of visit	Minister	Numbers accompanying	Place and purpose of visit	Cost £
28 January 1993	Ann Widdecombe	4	Copenhagen Social Affairs Council	4,500.00
1 February 1993	Lord Henley	2	Strasbourg To open Beveridge Exhibition	1,125.30
26–27 February 1993	Alistair Burt	2	Germany Bilateral talks with German Social Security Ministers	332.50
28 April 1993	Lord Henley	1	Republic of Ireland Meeting Board of Management Trust: War Pensions	460.00
15 May 1993	Alistair Burt	2	Brussels Bilateral talks with Belgian Social Security Ministers	590.52

Parliamentary Secretary

Date and duration of visit	*Minister*	*Numbers accompanying*	*Place and purpose of visit*	*Cost £*
28–30 September 1993	Alistair Burt	1	Republic of Ireland Bilateral talks with Irish Social Security Minister and visit to Community Development Programme	426.00
18–19 April 1994	Alistair Burt	4	Luxembourg Social Affairs Council	[1]—
28 May to 5 June 1994	Alistair Burt	3	Canada and USA Fact-finding visit about family issues	13,177.38
21–22 June 1994	Alistair Burt	4	Luxembourg Social Affairs Council	2,948.42

[1]Details not available.

Mortgage Protection Insurance

Mr. Dewar: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) what measures he will take to ensure that the members of the Association of British Insurers adhere to future guidance on mortgage protection insurance; and if he will produce a report on the development of this part of the insurance market before October; [34266]

(2) when he expects the Association of British Insurers to publish its guidance on mortgage protection insurance. [34267]

Mr. Roger Evans: The Association of British Insurers advises that its guidance to good practice on mortgage protection insurance should be available in late summer. It is currently discussing with its members the status of the guidance. The development of the new arrangements for income support mortgage interest, including compliance with this voluntary guidance, will be monitored. I have no plans to report on this part of the insurance market.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as "www.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34689]

Mr. Burt: DSS agencies and headquarters are currently identifying opportunities for using the Government information service provided by CCTA. Items already on the Internet include citizens charter information and press releases. The recent earnings top-up pilot scheme consultative document can also be accessed via the GIS and the Department has invited comments to be returned to its Internet E-mail address. The Department is now developing a set of home pages that will provide more general information on benefits, contributions and child support.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34694]

Mr. Burt: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the UK economy. The Government continue to help smaller companies by keeping inflation and interest rates low and by reducing legislative, administrative and taxation burdens. They also provide direct assistance where appropriate.

The White Paper announced in May 1995 outlines a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of small firms sector.

Measures introduced by the Department of Social Security over the last 12 months to assist small businesses include:

reductions in national insurance contributions from April of 0.6 per cent. for employers of lower paid employees (earnings under £205 a week). The earnings brackets for each of the three lower rates were also increased by more than the rate of inflation.

changes to the reimbursement arrangements for statutory sick pay from April. The new percentage threshold scheme will help any employer with a large proportion of his work force off sick at the same time. It reimburses SSP costs exceeding 13 per cent. of the monthly national insurance bill. The scheme is straightforward to operate and will protect the cash flow of the businesses covered more effectively. Small businesses will continue to receive the lion's share of SSP reimbursement.

Other measures aimed at business in general, which should help small businesses, include:

From October 1994, employers are no longer required to arrange for persons engaged in certain specified occupations involving a risk of pneumoconiosis to submit themselves for medical examination saving staff time and administrative costs for employers.

In his November Budget statement, the Chancellor announced that the Contributions Agency will accept dispensations for expenses payments already agreed with the Inland Revenue for tax purposes, provided the circumstances under which they were issued have not changed. The CA will also now consider any reasonable form of evidence to determine the profit element of expenses payments. Previously only logs detailing actual expenses were acceptable.

The Contributions Agency has also initiated a number of customer service improvements, including:

the publication of a code of practice on 6 April. This code is sent to employers prior to a survey of their national insurance records to explain what they can expect from the CA and what

the CA would like from them. The aim is to help employers prepare in advance so that the survey can be carried out more quickly and with the minimum disruption to the employer.

the appointment of an independent adjudicator on 1 June to investigate complaints where a customer remains dissatisfied following consideration by the chief executive.

there are plans to expand further the provision of information for businesses and the self-employed on the Internet.

the extension and streamlining of the call answering capacity of the telephone helpline for employers, SSALE.

the provision of information on the availability of Payroll Bureaux assistance in the latest edition of the employers guide issued in March.

the provision of information to interested parties on national insurance matters including SSP and statutory maternity pay through talks, presentations and seminars held by local customer service managers.

The Department has a system to monitor proposals which have an impact on small businesses to ensure that the needs and costs to small businesses are taken into account, but there are no performance indicators specifically for monitoring achievements in this area. However, we attach particular importance to action taken to help small businesses and continue to explore ways of doing so.

Incomes

Ms Corston: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the change in real disposable income, by quintile group, including the self-employed, before and after housing costs, following table A1 and appendix 10 of the latest households below average income report; and what was the equivalised income per household in each quintile group, for households with children, in April 1995 prices. [34481]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The information is in the tables.

Changes in real income by quintile group 1979–1992/93, including the self-employed

Percentage

	Quintile 1 Bottom 20	*Quintile 2 20–4-*	*Quintile 3 40–60*	*Quintile 4 60–80*	*Quintile 5 Top 20*
Before housing costs	7	14	26	34	50
After housing costs	–4	10	27	37	53

Notes:
Percentage growth estimates are calculated from the median income of each quintile. All estimates are subject to sampling error.

Money values of quintile medians for households with children 1979 and 1992–93

Percentage

	Quintile 1 Bottom 20	*Quintile 2 20–40*	*Quintile 3 40–60*	*Quintile 4 60–80*	*Quintile 5 Top 20*
Before housing costs					
1979	105	141	169	203	267
1992–93	104	150	208	275	414
After housing costs					
1979	88	119	144	175	232
1992–93	78	120	174	234	359

Notes:
The figures relate to the median income level in each quintile.
The figures given are for equivalised income and are given to the nearest whole £.
Small changes are unlikely to be statistically significant.
All estimates are subject to sampling error.
Monetary amounts are given in March 1995 prices in order not be comparable with those shown in the latest edition of Households Below Average Income. Estimates are for weekly income and should not be converted into annual amounts.

Ms Corston: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many children were in households living on incomes *(a)* below the 1979 bottom decile and *(b)* below 50 per cent. of 1979 average income, in 1979 and in 1992–93, following tables 11.1 and 11.5 of the latest households below average income report; and what was the value of the thresholds in these years. [34479]

Mr. Mitchell: The information is in the tables.

Numbers of children below fixed income thresholds

Thousands

	1979 Actual	*1979 Adjusted*	*1992–93*
(a) Below 1979 Bottom Decile Median			
Before Housing Costs	820	770	810
After Housing Costs	860	810	1,180
(b) Below 50 per cent. of 1979 Average Income			
Before Housing Costs	1,230	1,150	1,220
After Housing Costs	1,430	3,340	1,910

Notes:

The 1979 adjusted column shows the numbers of children before fixed income thresholds based on grossing the total numbers of children in 1979 to the total number of children in 1992–93. This is done to remove the effect of the change in the total number of children.

All Estimates are subject to sampling error.

Estimates are shown to the nearest 10 thousand.

Ms Corston: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the equivalent monetary value in £ per week at April 1995 prices, following table A2 of the latest households below average income report, in 1979 and 1992–93, before and after housing costs, of the decile means and medians of the two poorest decile groups and the richest decile group, and the total population mean of *(a)* single adult and couples with *(b)* no children, *(c)* one child aged three, *(d)* one child aged 16, *(e)* two children aged three and eight, *(f)* three children aged three, eight and 11 and *(g)* three children aged 11, 16 and 17 years. [34474]

Mr. Mitchell: The information is not available in the precise form requested. Such information as is available is in the table. The estimates provided follow those in table A2 of households below average income and show the median of each decile group and the whole population mean. Reliable estimates of means of decile groups are not available.

Monetary amounts are given in March 1995 prices as in table A2 of the latest edition of households below average income to allow comparison. Estimates are for current weekly income and should not be converted into annual amounts.

Money values for the bottom two decile medians, the top decile median and the overall mean for different family types in March 1995 prices (including self employed)

Equivalent monetary values in £s per week — *Income before housing costs*

	Group medians			
	Decile 1 Bottom 10 per cent.	*Decile 2 10–20 per cent.*	*Decile 10 Top 10 per cent.*	*Total population (mean)*
1979				
Single adult	55	69	223	121
Couple no children	90	113	366	198
Couple with child aged 3	106	133	432	233
Couple with child aged 16	122	153	498	269
Couple with children aged 3 and 8	127	159	517	279
Couple with children aged 3, 8 and 11	149	187	608	328
Couple with children aged 11, 16 and 17	177	222	722	389
1992–93				
Single adult	55	74	350	165
Couple no children	91	122	573	270
Couple with child aged 3	107	144	676	319
Couple with child aged 16	124	166	779	367
Couple with children aged 3 and 8	128	172	808	381
Couple with children aged 3, 8 and 11	151	202	951	448
Couple with children aged 11, 16 and 17	179	240	1,129	532

Note:
The figures in the table show, for the overall UK distribution of equivalised disposable income, decile medians for the bottom, second and top decile, and the mean income. These are expressed in terms of the equivalent monetary amounts for different family types.
All estimates are subject to sampling error.

Money values for the bottom two decile medians, the top decile median and the overall mean for different family types in March 1995 prices (including self employed)

Equivalent monetary values in £s per week — *Income after housing costs*

	Group medians			
	Decile 1 Bottom 10 per cent.	*Decile 2 10–20 per cent.*	*Decile 10 Top 10 per cent.*	*Total population (mean)*
1979				
Single adult	41	53	177	94
Couple no children	75	96	321	171
Couple with child aged 3	89	113	379	22
Couple with child aged 16	104	133	443	237
Couple with children aged 3 and 8	106	135	453	242
Couple with children aged 3, 8 and 11	126	160	536	286
Couple with children aged 11, 16 and 17	152	194	649	346
1992–93				
Single adult	34	53	286	130
Couple no children	62	97	520	236
Couple with child aged 3	73	114	614	278
Couple with child aged 16	86	133	718	326
Couple with children aged 3 and 8	88	136	734	333
Couple with children aged 3, 8 and 11	104	161	869	394
Couple with children aged 11, 16 and 17	126	195	1,051	477

Note:
The figures in the table show, for the overall UK distribution of equivalised disposable income, decile medians for the bottom, second and top decile, and the mean income. These are expressed in terms of the equivalent monetary amounts.
All estimates are subject to sampling error.

Money values for the bottom two decile medians, the top decile median and the overall mean for different family types in March 1995 prices (excluding self employed)

Equivalent monetary values in £s per week — *Income before housing costs*

	Group medians			
	Decile 1 *Bottom 10 per cent.*	*Decile 2* *10–20 per cent.*	*Decile 10* *Top 10 per cent.*	*Total population (mean)*
1979				
Single adult	55	69	217	120
Couple no children	91	113	356	196
Couple with child aged 3	107	133	420	231
Couple with child aged 16	123	154	484	266
Couple with children aged 3 and 8	128	159	502	276
Couple with children aged 3, 8 and 11	151	188	591	325
Couple with children aged 11, 16 and 17	179	223	701	386
1992–93				
Single adult	57	75	340	161
Couple no children	94	123	558	264
Couple with child aged 3	111	145	658	312
Couple with child aged 16	128	167	758	360
Couple with children aged 3 and 8	133	173	786	373
Couple with children aged 3, 8 and 11	156	204	926	439
Couple with children aged 11, 16 and 17	186	242	1,099	521

Note:
The figures in the table show, for the overall UK distribution of equivalised disposable income, decile medians for the bottom, second and top decile, and the mean income. These are expressed in terms of the equivalent monetary amounts.
All estimates are subject to sampling error.

Money values for the bottom two decile medians, the top decile median and the overall mean for different family types in March 1995 prices (including self employed)

Equivalent monetary values in £s per week — *Income after housing costs*

	Group medians			
	Decile 1 *Bottom 10 per cent.*	*Decile 2* *10–20 per cent.*	*Decile 10* *Top 10 per cent.*	*Total population (mean)*
1979				
Single adult	42	53	172	94
Couple no children	76	96	313	170
Couple with child aged 3	89	114	369	201
Couple with child aged 16	105	133	432	235
Couple with children aged 3 and 8	107	136	441	240
Couple with children aged 3, 8 and 11	126	161	523	284
Couple with children aged 11, 16 and 17	153	194	632	343
1992–93				
Single adult	38	54	275	127
Couple no children	68	98	501	231
Couple with child aged 3	80	115	591	273
Couple with child aged 16	94	135	691	319
Couple with children aged 3 and 8	96	138	706	326
Couple with children aged 3, 8 and 11	114	163	836	386
Couple with children aged 11, 16 and 17	138	198	1,012	467

Note:
The figures in the table show, for the overall UK distribution of equivalised disposable income, decile medians for the bottom, second and top decile, and the mean income. These are expressed in terms of the equivalent monetary amounts.
All estimates are subject to sampling error.

Child Support Agency

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what assessment he has made of Child Support Agency compliance with the Data Protection Act 1984; and if he will make a statement. [33622]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The Child Support Agency is registered under the Data Protection Act 1984 and is fully aware of the requirements and obligations that this places on staff in relation to the recording and use of personal data.

The agency has taken all necessary measures to ensure that confidentiality is maintained and members of staff are obliged to maintain confidentiality at all times. The chief executive regularly meets the Data Protection Registrar, in view of the particularly sensitive nature of this area of work.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will update table G2.01 of the social security statistics 1994 by reference to the most recent date from the case-load of the Child Support Agency. [34438]

Mr. Mitchell: The information is contained in "Child Support Agency Statistical Information". Copies for the periods 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995 and 1 April 1995 to 2 June 1995 are in the Library.

Correspondence

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) if he will make it his policy that hon. Members will continue to receive individually researched replies to their inquiries to Ministers; [35066]

(2) what representations he has received regarding the effectiveness of the pilot central correspondence section. [35067]

Mr. Burt: All letters from hon. Members receive an individual reply which answers their specific queries. There are no plans to change this level of service.

To my knowledge no representations have been received regarding the effectiveness of the pilot correspondence unit. However, as at 13 July 1995, 36 hon. Members have written requesting further information about the pilot unit following the circular letter issued by the general secretary of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants. Since the unit began operations in March this year, 2,356 replies have been issued to hon. Members. In addition, the unit has sent 1,995 replies direct to members of the public. There have been no complaints about the standard of these replies.

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) if it is his policy to provide standard replies to individual letters on behalf of constituents from hon. Members; and if he will make a statement; [35150]

(2) if he will make it his policy that hon. Members will continue to receive specific responses to individual inquiries relating to constituents' problems following the establishment of a central correspondence section. [35149]

Mr. Burt: All letters from hon. Members receive an individual reply which answers their specific queries. There are no plans to change this level of service.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what has been the cost of the administration of housing benefit in each of the last five years. [34847]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information is set out in the table.

£ million

Year	*Outturn*
1989–90	286
1990–91	207
1991–92	225
1992–93	249
1993–94	272

Figures for the year 1994–95 are not yet available.
Data Source:
Social Security Departmental Report 1995 (Table 2 page 100).

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the latest estimate of the average amount of housing benefit payable to people in receipt of *(a)* unemployment benefit, *(b)* severe disablement allowance and *(c)* incapacity benefit. [35295]

Mr. Evans: The available information is set out in the table:

Benefit with which Housing Benefit paid:	*Average weekly housing benefit May 1994* £
Unemployment Benefit	38.85
Severe Disablement Allowance	39.24
Sickness Benefit	34.77
Invalidity Benefit	31.53

Notes:
Payment of the other benefit may be to either the claimant or the partner.
Figures for Sickness Benefit and Invalidity Benefit are given as Incapacity Benefit was only introduced in April 1995 and information is not yet available.Housing Benefit Management Information system, Annual 1 percent. sample May 1994.*Source:*
Housing Benefit Management Information system, Annual 1 per cent. sample May 1994.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) what is the average length of time *(a)* between a request for a disability living allowance review and a decision being made and *(b)* between lodging a disability allowance appeal and the date of a tribunal hearing; [35297]

(2) what was the number and percentage of disability living allowance decisions where the adjudication officer required *(a)* an examining medical officer's report, *(b)* a general practitioner's factual report and *(c)* any other evidence, between February 1994 and February 1995; [35299]

(3) how many requests for disability living allowance appeals *(a)* were received by his Department and *(b)* were outstanding in each month between February 1994 and February 1995 inclusive. [35300]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The information is not available in the format requested. Clearance times on reviews for the 1994–95 year was 82 per cent. cleared in 55 working days and 92 per cent. in 75 days against a target of 60 per cent. in 55 days and 80 per cent. in 75 days. For appeals, only one figure is held by the Independent Tribunal Service for both disability living allowance and disability working allowance. From the lodgement of the appeal to the first hearing, the average time in 23 weeks.

Disability living allowance decisions by type of evidence (between 1 February 1994 and 28 February 1995)

	Number (000s)	*Per cent.*
Total decisions[1]	456	100
Examining medical officer's report	82	18
General practitioner's report	160	35
Claim Pack[2]	196	43
Any other evidence	18	4

Note:
[1] Excludes cases where the type of evidence is not known
[2] Includes any supporting statements.
Source:
Analytical Services Division: 100 per cent. data.

DLA appeals
(February 1994–February 1995)

Month	*Registered*	*Outstanding*
1994		
February	2,426	17,546
March	2,521	16,988
April	1,932	16,395
May	1,717	15,716
June	1,627	14,849
July	1,972	14,499
August	2,369	14,441
September	2,568	14,383
October	2,466	14,582
November	3,124	15,758
December	1,941	16,245
1995		
January	2,574	17,611
February	2,857	17,271

Source:
DLA Management Support Unit.

Nursery Vouchers

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he plans to disregard the value of the nursery voucher for four-year-olds for the purposes of income support and family credit. [35395]

Mr. Roger Evans: I shall write to the hon. Member shortly.

National Insurance

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is his estimate of the number of *(a)* people and *(b)* firms, which pay national insurance contributions of type (i) class 1—employees, (ii) class 2—self-employed, (iii) class 3—voluntary contributions, (iv) class 4—self-employed and (v) class 1—employers. [35354]

Mr. Heald: The information is as follows:

(i) 18.3 million[1]

(ii) 2.4 million[1]

(iii) 0.19 million[1]

(iv) 1.7 million

(v) The Contribution Agency estimates that it will receive between 1.1 and 1.3 million sets of PAYE returns from employers for the 1993–94 tax year. Some employers may send in more than one set of returns.

Notes:

[1] Average number paying in any week.

1. Separate details of the number of self-employed people working on their own account or as an employer are not available. The numbers of self-employed people who send in PAYE returns for their employees is included in (v).

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what are his estimates of the total annual revenue raised from national insurance contributions of both contracted out and non-contracted out type for *(a)* class 1—employees, *(b)* class 2—self-employed, *(c)* class 3—voluntary contributions, *(d)* class 4—self-employed and *(e)* class 1—employers. [35355]

Mr. Heald: The current estimates for 1994–95 are in the table:

	£ million
(a) Gross	19,725
Contracted-out rebate[1]	1,950
Net	17,775
(b)	680
(c)	55
(d)	815
(e) Gross	26,575
Contracted-out rebate[1]	3,300
Net	23,275

Notes:

[1] In respect of contracted-out occupational pension schemes only.

[2] It is estimated that employers will also pay some £475 million due in respect of company cars and fuel for their employees.

Source:
Government Actuary's Department.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people have failed the all work test of incapacity *(a)* in total, *(b)* by region and *(c)* by gender; and how many of these are signing on as unemployed. [35252]

Mr. Burt: At 31 May, the latest date for which figures are available, 28 people had failed the all work test of incapacity. A breakdown of this figure by region and gender is not available.

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people since April have failed to qualify for an increase in incapacity benefit for an adult dependant. [35246]

Mr. Burt The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people now receive incapacity benefit; and how many receive age allowances *(a)* at the higher rate, *(b)* at the middle rate and *(c)* at the lower rate. [35245]

Mr. Burt: At 31 May this year, the latest date for which figures are available, 1,994,891 people were in receipt of incapacity benefit. Two rates of age addition are payable with incapacity benefit. People in receipt of one of the three age additions payable with invalidity benefit prior to 13 April, will continue to receive the addition with incapacity benefit. Information on how many of those are in payment at the higher, middle and lower rates, is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) how many *(a)* men aged 65 and *(b)* aged 60 years have had their incapacity benefit withdrawn since April; [35247]

(2) how many people who have claimed incapacity benefit since April 1995 also receive income support. [35255]

Mr. Burt: The information is not available.

Pensions

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to his answer of 12 July, *Official Report*, column *623*, on money purchases schemes, on what grounds it is assumed that the number of holders of APPs will fall between 2010 and 2030. [35513]

Mr. Heald: The introduction of age-related rebates will mean that the majority of current appropriate personal pension holders are able to maintain their plans until retirement. The new system will also reduce the financial incentives for younger people to take out an APP for the first time, so it is predicted that the level of take-up of new APPs will fall, leading to a gradual drop in the overall numbers of APP holders. However, the rebate will be regularly reviewed, and the changes to the contracting out system make it very difficult to predict future take up of APPs.

The detailed assumptions used in the figures are given in the Government Actuary's report on the Pension Bill 1995 (CM 2714).

Mr. Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what discussions he has held with pension organisations on the future calculation of the retirement pension; and if he will make a statement. [35414]

Mr. Heald: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the previous Under-Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Walsall, North (Mr. Winnick) on 27 June, *Official Report*, columns *585-86*.

Income Support

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to his answer of 12 July, *Official Report* column *621*, if he will provide such monthly *(a)* regional, *(b)* territory and *(c)* district information as is available since April 1993 on severe hardship. [35514]

Mr. Roger Evans: Such information as is available from the Benefits Agency has been placed in the Library. However, the data are provisional and subject to amendment.

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) what was the number of recipients of income support who were subject to direct payments from income support in 1994–95 and in each of the five preceding years, listing the type of payment and relating each category of payment to the percentage of the total number of recipients of income support; [35242]

(2) what was the number of recipients of income support who were subject to deductions from benefit in 1994–95 and in each of the five preceding years, listing the reason for the deduction and relating each category of deduction to the percentage of the total number of recipients of income support. [35243]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information requested is in the tables.

Type of deduction	*1989 (percentage of all claimants)*	*1990 (percentage of all claimants)*	*1991 (percentage of all claimants)*	*1992 (percentage of all claimants)*	*1993 (percentage of all claimants)*	*1994 (percentage of all claimants)*
All cases with one or more deductions	631,000 (15.16)	615,000 (14.71)	682,000 (15.2)	1,006,000 (19.77)	—	1,675,000 (29.52)
Electricity	131,000 (3.16)	100,000 (2.38)	96,000 (2.14)	96,000 (1.9)	76,000 (1.34)	74,000 (1.31)
Current charges only	—	—	—	40,000 (0.8)	32,000 (0.56)	30,000 (0.52)
Including arrears	—	—	—	56,000 (1.1)	44,000 (0.78)	45,000 (0.79)
Gas	134,000 (3.22)	123,000 (2.94)	146,000 (3.25)	194,000 (3.8)	204,000 (3.61)	231,000 (4.07)
Current charges only	—	—	—	43,000 (0.9)	37,000 (0.66)	38,000 (0.67)
Including arrears	—	—	—	151,000 (3.0)	166,000 (2.95)	193,000 (3.40)
Mortgage interest	4,000 (0.10)	5,000 (0.11)	7,000 (0.16)	44,000 (0.9)	463,000 (8.20)	445,000 (7.85)
Current charges only	—	—	—	9,000 (0.2)	343,000 (6.08)	310,000 (5.46)
Including arrears	—	—	—	35,000 (0.7)	120,000 (2.12)	135,000 (2.39)
Water/sewerage charges, service charge for fuel and water[1]	22,000 (0.52)	51,000 (1.21)	67,000 (1.49)	134,000 (2.6)	161,000 (2.86)	218,000 (3.83)
Current charges only	—	—	—	16,000 (0.3)	16,000 (0.29)	19,000 (0.34)
Including arrears	—	—	—	118,000 (2.3)	145,000 (2.57)	198,000 (3.49)
Community charge[2]	—	—	34,000 (0.75)	—	—	—
Community charge higher arrears only	—	—	—	17,000 (0.3)	30,000 (0.53)	33,000 (0.58)
Community charge lower arrears only	—	—	—	228,000 (4.5)	408,000 (7.22)	490,000 (8.64)
Council tax arrears only[3]	—	—	—	—	—	14,000 (0.25)
Fines recovery arrears only[4]	—	—	—	—	—	7,000 (0.12)
Social fund loan recovery[5]	352,000 (8.46)	383,000 (9.16)	443,000 (9.87)	586,000 (11.5)	—	665,000 (11.72)
Overpayment recovery	79,000 (1.91)	70,000 (1.67)	68,000 (1.51)	92,000 (1.8)	93,000 (1.65)	114,000 (2.02)
Child support[6]	—	—	—	—	—	19,000 (0.34)
Other housing costs, rent arrears and amenity charges	74,000 (1.78)	57,000 (1.37)	98,000 (2.17)	101,000 (2.0)	110,000 (1.96)	161,000 (2.83)

Type of deduction	1989 (percentage of all claimants)	1990 (percentage of all claimants)	1991 (percentage of all claimants)	1992 (percentage of all claimants)	1993 (percentage of all claimants)	1994 (percentage of all claimants)
Current charges only	—	—	—	18,000 (0.4)	10,000 (0.17)	13,000 (0.22)
Including arrears	—	—	—	84,000 (1.6)	100,000 (1.79)	148,000 (2.61)
Board and lodging (including RC/NH/hostels)[7]	12,000 (0.28)	—	—	—	—	—
Other deductions[8]	9,000 (0.22)	1,000 (0.03)	3,000 (0.07)	3,000 (0.1)	4,000 (0.07)	—

Notes:

Deductions from Income Support are of two kinds: direct payment to third parties like the utility companies and deductions for social fund and overpayment recovery.

[1] For 1989 and 1990 includes service charges for fuel and water included in rent.

[2] Community charge not introduced until 1991—separated on data sets from 1992 by higher and lower rates.

[3] Council tax not collected until 1994.

[4] Fines recovery not collected prior to 1994.

[5] Social fund recovery data not available for 1993.

[6] Child support not introduced until 1994.

[7] Board and lodging deductions no longer made from 1990 onwards.

[8] Other deductions "—" less than 1000 cases for 1994.

[9] Figures shown are for May each year. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

[10] Deductions for electricity, gas, mortgage interest, other housing costs were not separated prior to 1992.

Source:

Income Support Statistics Annual and Quarterly Enquiries.

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the total number of recipients of income support who were subject to more than one deduction from benefit, excluding mortgage interest payments, in 1994–95 and in each of the five preceding years; if he will give a breakdown of the total number of recipients of income support who were subject to more than one deduction from income support by the number of deductions; and if he will list the average value of these deductions for each group. [35244]

Mr. Evans: The information is in the table.

Income support recipients with one or more deductions (excluding mortgage interest)

		Number of Deductions				
		2	3	4	5 or more	All cases
1989	Claimants with more than 1 deduction	119,000	38,000	6,000	1,000	163,000
	Average deduction	£13.05	£17.24	£20.65	£25.32	£14.34
1990	Claimants with more than 1 deduction	107,000	38,000	8,000	1,000	153,000
	Average deduction	£12.56	£17.41	£21.09	£22.63	£14.25
1991	Claimants with more than 1 deduction	132,000	50,000	12,000	2,000	196,000
	Average deduction	£12.42	£18.27	£23.20	£26.05	£14.71
1992	Claimants with more than 1 deduction	209,000	87,000	27,000	3,000	325,000
	Average deduction	£11.51	£18.05	£23.48	£29.86	£14.41
1993	Claimants with more than 1 deduction	237,000	91,000	29,000	5,000	363,000
	Average deduction	£10.80	£16.77	£22.99	£27.27	£13.53
1994	Claimants with more than 1 deduction	302,000	126,000	38,000	7,000	472,000
	Average deduction	£10.88	£17.42	£22.29	£26.82	£13.77

Notes:

Figures shown are for May each year. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:

Income Support Statistics Annual and Quarterly Enquiries.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the average amount of housing benefit payable to people with earned income. [35248]

Mr. Roger Evans: At May 1994, the latest available date, the average weekly amount of housing benefit paid, were either claimant or partner had earned income, was £32.29.

Source:

Housing benefit management information system, annual 1 per cent. sample.

Severe Disablement Allowance

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many people now receive severe disablement allowance; and how many receive age allowances *(a)* at the higher rate, *(b)* at the middle rate and *(c)* at the lower rate. [35249]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: As at 3 April 1993, the latest year for which actual figures are available, there were 316,000 recipients of severe disablement allowance. The numbers entitled to the higher, middle and lower rate age allowances were 211,000; 54,000 and 45,000 respectively.

Source: DSS analytical services division—based on 1 per cent. sample and rounded to the nearest thousand.

Energy Efficiency Programme

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if interest loans taken out for the purposes of energy conservation to a dwelling occupied as the home will be eligible for payment through income support under the Social Security (Income Support and Claims and

Payments) Amendment Regulations 1995; and if he will make a statement. [32925]

Mr. Roger Evans *[holding answer Tuesday 11 July]:* Income support will continue to be able to help with the interest on loans taken out to provide insulation for the dwelling occupied as the home, provided the work is necessary to maintain the fitness of the home for human habitation. The Government's principal energy efficiency programme for householders aged 60 or over and those on a low income is the home energy efficiency scheme. It provides grants for draught proofing and loft, tank and pipe insulation and energy advice.

Disability Working Allowance

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list how many people have been refused an award of disability working allowance on renewal by reasons for disallowance. [35254]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The information is in the table:

Reasons for disallowing renewal claims for disability working allowance, for the period 1 November 1992 to 31 January 1995[1]

Reason for disallowance	*Total disallowed*
Not resident in Great Britain	1
Capital exceed £16,000	10
Not in remunerative work	558
Income exceeds DWA level	515
No qualifying benefit	343
Disability test	99
Receiving Family Credit	32
DWA claim made more than six weeks before end date of DWA award	[2]465
Claimant has withdrawn claim	143
Other reasons	16
Total	1,574

[1] 1 November is the first date of receipt for DWA renewal claims.[2] This figure includes claims that have been disallowed because the renewal claim was made more than six weeks before the current claim ends. Some of these may have been subsequently disallowed for another reason, and therefore recorded more than once in the above table.

Source:
Disability Working Allowance 100 per cent. of all claims.

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women received each of the qualifying benefits for disability working allowance. [35253]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The information is in the table:

Caseload as at 31 January 1995	*All cases*	*Males*	*Females*
Disability living allowance—higher rate	2,399	1,376	1,023
Disability living allowance—middle rate	928	573	355
Invalidity benefit	984	684	300
Severe disablement allowance	332	194	138
Disability premium in income support/housing benefit or council tax benefit	559	317	242
Total	5,202	3,144	2,058

Source:
Disability working allowance quarterly inquiry January 1995.

Some people may have more than one qualifying benefit. In these circumstances the most advantageous qualifying benefit is used as it may passport the person through the disability test.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35312]

Mr. Burt: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 session.

Administration Costs

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the administration cost per claimant of *(a)* unemployment benefit, *(b)* severe disablement allowance and *(c)* incapacity benefit. [35250]

Mr. Burt: Information on the administration costs of benefits is not available in the format requested. Available information, as published in the 1995 Social Security Department report, is as follows:

Estimated administration costs 1993–94

	Administration cost £ million	*Estimated number of beneficiaries at a particular time Thousands*	*Average weekly administration cost per beneficiary £*
Unemployment benefit	[1]288	607	9.10
Severe disablement allowance	35	[2]329	2.05
Sickness and invalidity benefits	359	[2]1,868	3.70

[1] Includes the cost of administering National Insurance credits for clients who do not receive any social security benefit.
[2] Estimated numbers—actual caseload figures not yet available.
Information on incapacity benefit is not available.

Performance Targets

Mr. Coe: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what performance targets he has set his Department's agencies for 1995–96; and if he will make a statement. [18010]

Mr. Lilley *[pursuant to his reply, 30 March 1995, c. 780–82]:* I have today laid before Parliament the 1994–95 annual reports and accounts for the Benefits, Child Support, Contributions, Information Technology services and War Pensions Agencies. Copies of these, and the Resettlement Agency's annual report, have been placed in the Library.

I have also today published "Child Support Agency—National Client Satisfaction Survey 1994" and copies have been placed in the Library.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Forestry

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals his Department has for the future management and conservation of forests in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [34268]

Mr. Ancram: Future management and conservation of state forests in Northern Ireland will be subject to the conclusions drawn from a prior options study of all forest service activities which is currently under way. The outcome is expected to be reported to Ministers in the autumn of this year.

Water Executive

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to safeguard the rights of employees in the Water Executive in respect of pension entitlements, redundancy entitlements and other contractual terms and conditions of employment. [34271]

Mr. Moss: On 1 April 1996 a next steps agency will be created which will deal with the work currently carried out by the Water Executive of the Department of Environment (NI). This is an interim step towards the Government's ultimate goal of privatising the work of the Water Executive, but that goal will not be attainable in the lifetime of the present Parliament. In the meantime the Government are proceeding with plans to manage the Water Executive as an agency within the Department of the Environment (NI).

Agency staff will be employees of the Department and as such will continue to be civil servants and will enjoy the terms and conditions laid down by the Northern Ireland civil service code and the pension entitlements under the principal civil service pension scheme (Northern Ireland).

The Agency will be expected to make further improvements in the quality and cost-effectiveness of water and sewerage services to its customers. Through market testing, the chief executive will wish to examine whether parts of the agency's activities can be delivered more efficiently and economically by the private sector. Should the chief executive decide that a service could be better provided by the private sector, he will have to consider whether Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations apply in any transfer of the service. This will depend on the particular terms and conditions contained in any bid from the private sector, but where the regulations do apply the existing terms and conditions of employment will transfer with staff to the new employer. Where they do not apply, staff may opt not to transfer to the new employer and to remain with the Department either to be redeployed or possibly to face redundancy. In either case, existing terms and conditions will apply.

Pension entitlements are protected by employment law, not by TUPE, and in a case of transfer of service both the Department and successful contractor must so arrange things that pension rights enjoyed by staff after the transfer are broadly comparable in value with those enjoyed before.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to his answer of 29 June, *Official Report*, column *779*, on the future of the water service in Northern Ireland *(a)* which bodies were consulted before the decision to establish the next steps agency and *(b)* what factors influenced his decision. [34451]

Mr. Moss: In July 1992, in accordance with Government policy, it was announced that the water service of the Department of the Environment (NI), as it was then known, would be privatised in 1995–96. Due to a number of technical difficulties the Government announced in April 1993 that it would not be practicable to effect the privatisation within the lifetime of the present Parliament. On 29 June 1994 the Minister of State with responsibility for DOE (NI) announced that privatisation of water and sewerage services remained the ultimate goal of the Government, but, in the interim, plans were proceeding to establish the Water Executive as a next steps agency within the Department by 1 April 1996.

These arrangements are entirely in keeping with the well established concepts of the next steps initiative through which the Government seek to improve the delivery of public services. As such, no external consultation was necessary.

The main consideration in deciding to pursue agentisation was the search for ever-increasing improvements in economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland.

Schools (Capital Expenditure)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was capital expenditure on *(a)* primary; and *(b)* secondary schools in real and constant price terms in each year since 1979. [34030]

Mr. Ancram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer which I gave him on 16 May, *Official Report*, columns *195–96*.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the achievements of *(a)* his policies, and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical result of such monitoring. [34697]

Mr. Ancram: Assistance towards small firms in Northern Ireland is delivered for the Department of Economic Development by its agency, the Local Enterprise Development Unit.

LEDU's strategy forms an integral part of the Government's approach to encourage competitiveness and growth among small businesses. I am encouraged that LEDU had another successful year in 1994–95. LEDU client companies' turnover increased by 11 per cent. in real terms compared with 9.5 per cent. in 1993–94 and had a net increase in full-time employment of 3,500 or

11.9 per cent.—Northern Ireland average 2.6 per cent.—compared with an increase of 5.8 per cent. recorded in the previous year.

Key results are as follows

Performance indicators	*1994–95 targets*	*1994–95 results*
Business start training (numbers)	3,000	3,732
Small business accommodation	8,200 sq m	6,169 sq m
Growth implementing contracts signed	152	159
Contracts to companies engaged in projects to overcome barriers to growth	760	1,049

Department of Public Prosecutions

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what has been the change in the workload of the legal staff of the Department of Public Prosecutions over the past five years; and what changes there have been in delays in the legal process as a result. [34369]

Sir John Wheeler: The number of case files received by the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland in each of the five years from 1990 to 1994 is as follows:

1990: 9,337

1991: 9,764

1992: 11,538

1993: 10,564

1994: 11,982

Since 1 July 1992 the progress of serious indicatable cases has been monitored under the administrative time limits scheme. I refer the hon. Member to the answers my right hon. and learned Friend gave the hon. Member for Belfast, South (Rev. Martin Smyth) on 23 November 1993, *Official Report*, columns *19–20*, and my hon. Friend the Member Bolton, North-East (Mr. Thurnham) on 6 December 1994, *Official Report*, columns *165–66*, regarding the results of that scheme. The workload of legal staff in the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions is one of a number of factors increasing the delay in bringing an accused person to trial.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what are the present legislative proposals of his Department that will require consideration by the House during the next year. [34370]

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35311]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

In addition I shall be writing to the Northern Ireland party leaders and to the Opposition spokesmen on Northern Ireland at the start of the Session to outline our proposals for Orders and Orders-in-Council.

School Curriculum

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress being made to change the requirements of key stages 1, 2 and 4 in the school curriculum. [34371]

Mr. Ancram: Between September 1994 and February this year the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment prepared revised programmes of study for the subjects of the Northern Ireland curriculum and undertook a wide consultation on them, involving all schools in the Province, between March and June. These revised programmes of study reduce the statutory curriculum requirements for all pupils and the council will submit its final recommendations to the Department of Education in October. The Department will make the new programmes of study available to schools in January 1996 and they will become compulsory in September 1996.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement about revised assessment arrangements of the national curriculum for the 1995–96 school year. [34741]

Mr. Ancram: I announced on 28 March that I had decided not to introduce statutory assessment until the 1996–97 school year. This will ensure that the assessment arrangements relate directly to the revised curriculum which will take effect in that year and will allow time for further consultation. I have, therefore, asked the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment to take views of teachers on what should happen in statutory assessment, and to advise me by Christmas on the form which it should take. I intend to make an announcement early in 1996 about the statutory arrangements which will apply in 1996–97.

Special Education

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on his proposals for changes in special education and the likely timetable for legislative and executive enactment. [34372]

Mr. Ancram: The Government intend to bring before Parliament later this year a draft Education (Northern Ireland) Order which will include new provisions relating to special education similar to those introduced in England and Wales by the Education Act 1993. Consultation on the proposed legislation has recently taken place and responses are currently under consideration. The Government's decisions on the form of the draft order and its proposed implementation will be announced as soon as possible.

GP Surgeries

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the role of *(a)* the area health board and *(b)* the local general practitioner in providing the surgeries at (i) Newry, (ii) Portadown, (iii) Lurgan, (iv) Tandragee, (v) Keady, (vi) Newtownhamilton, (vii) Moy, (viii) Tynan and (ix) Armagh. [34335]

Mr. Moss: General medical practitioners are independent contractors and, in any area, the provision of their surgery premises is a matter for agreement between the GPs and the relevant health and social services board. GPs may provide their own surgery premises or they may rent accommodation either in a health centre run by the board or from a third party. In all cases GPs receive reimbursement from the board which can be related to the cost of providing premises, the actual rent being paid or the current market rental value of the accommodation.

Armagh Hospitals

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what proposals there are to relocate services at Mullinure hospital, Armagh, from other locations; [34333]

(2) what is the estimated cost at each location in Armagh city of completing the transfer of existing services at Tower Hill hospital, Armagh; [34336]

(3) what hospital services are proposed to be transferred from the site at Tower Hill, Armagh city, and at which location at Armagh each of these services will be relocated. [34332]

Mr. Moss: The Armagh and Dungannon unit of Management is currently undertaking a wide-ranging public consultation exercise on the implementation of the Southern health and social services board's recent review of health and social care services in Armagh.

The consultation period will close on 14 August and in the light of the comments received the board will decide on the shape and location of hospital services in the Armagh area including services currently provided on the Tower Hill and Mullinure sites.

Until the board makes its decision it is not possible to estimate the cost of transferring any services from the Tower Hill site.

Robbery and Burglary Detection Rates

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what have been the detection rates for robbery and burglary in Northern Ireland over the past five years; and what proposals he has to improve it. [34364]

Sir John Wheeler: The proper way to fight crime is through the continuing development and improvement of anti-crime strategies, in partnership between the Government, citizens, and the police. The detection rates for robbery and burglary in Northern Ireland are given in the table:

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1990–94*
Robbery offences known	1,205	1,329	1,512	1,361	1,373	6,780
Percentage cleared	19.5	19.6	17.8	15.7	19.4	18.3
Burglary offences known	14,609	16,268	16,888	15,512	16,692	79,969
Percentage cleared	21.5	20.4	18.0	18.8	18.6	19.4

Note:
Figures include attempts.

There has been a substantial decrease in the number of robberies and burglaries in the first five months of 1995, accompanied by an increase in detection rates, resulting from the increase in proactive patrolling by the police, both overt and covert, using manpower previously employed on security duties. Other serious crime shows a similar reduction, with all violent crime falling by 972 in the 10 months since the ceasefires compared to the previous 10-month period.

Comparative figures for robberies and burglaries January-May 1994 and 1995

1994 January-May	*1995 January-May*
Burglary 6939 offences known percentage cleared 17.7	Burglary 6624 offences known percentage cleared 18.7
Robbery 614 offences known percentage cleared 15	Robbery 494 offences known percentage cleared 22.3

The Royal Ulster Constabulary, fully supported by Government, will continue to build on this improvement. Specific initiative such as the formation of a robbery squad in Belfast, and the amalgamation of the serious crime squad and the anti-racketeering squads, have been introduced by the RUC positively and efficiently to increase their ability to react to the increased flow of information from the public since the ceasefires.

This is in addition to crime prevention schemes, such as the Northern Ireland Tobacco and Alcohol Security Group, which have proved their worth with significant reductions in the amount of high-value goods stolen over the last three years.

Most recently, I announced a major crime prevention initiative on 1 May this year. This anti-burglary programme highlights six ways to beat the burglar and is a joint venture between the police, the Northern Ireland office and Northern Ireland Electricity, which is providing sponsorship for the programme.

Prisoners (Costs of Detention)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the current annual cost of keeping a prisoner in each of Northern Ireland's prisons. [34366]

Sir John Wheeler: Responsibility for the subject of the question has been delegated to the Northern Ireland Prison Service under its chief executive, Mr. Alan Shannon. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from A. D. Shannon to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 17 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the current annual cost of keeping a prisoner in each of Northern Ireland's prisons.

The latest available figures relate to 1994/95 and are:

	£
HMP Belfast	77,900
HMP Maze	71,980
HMP Maghaberry	86,566
HMP Magilligan	73,553
HM, YOC	58,246

I hope this information is helpful.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as ww.open.gov.uk and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34682]

Sir John Wheeler: Northern Ireland departments were given a "home page" on the CCTA world wide web server—open.gov.uk—in February this year; this provided some general information on Northern Ireland as well as information on the citizens charter and a copy of the joint framework document.

In early June, the Department of Finance and Personnel established a WWW server of its own–address: nics.gov.uk—to provide an electronic publishing service for Northern Ireland departments and their associated bodies. There is an automatic pointer from the CCTA menu to the NI server.

An interdepartmental steering group has been established to develop and co-ordinate the use of this new facility and of information super-highways generally. The aim will be to make maximum use of the potential of information super-highways to make information available to the public and to meet the business needs of Northern Ireland departments.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the proportionate change in the level of expenditure of the Department of Finance and Personnel between 1993–94 and 1994–95; and what factors led to this change. [34999]

Sir John Wheeler: Public expenditure by the Department of Finance and Personnel, on the basis of the latest available figures, increased by some 24 per cent. between 1993–94 and 1994–95. The increase is mainly attributable to increases in redundancy payments, around £7 million, and the buying out of future year liabilities for redundancy costs—£6 million. Both these items are borne by DFP in relation to redundancies in Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Office.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on consultancy services by the Department of Finance and Personnel in 1994–95; on what projects the money was spent; and which consultancy firms were employed. [35007]

Sir John Wheeler: Expenditure of £164,915 was made on the following projects;

Scoping study for possible Market Testing of Telecoms
NICS Telecom Projects
X400 Project (E-Mail)
Government Loans
VALCOM
User Group Conference
Charging
Software amendments of IFMIS
Software amendments to DFP Salary Module
WESSIS and EROS
NSV/CPV Coding
Options Appraisal
Ad Hoc Advice
Market Test
Customer Care
Consortium Project
Combines Accounting Workshop
EC Research
Economic Appraisal in Central Government
'Interreg Evaluation'
Issued in Competitiveness'
'Urban' Prior Appraisal
Performance Management
Run down of NICS car scheme
Selection Reconstruction Tendering
Quality Assurance
Culture Survey
Prior Appraisal 'Urban' Initiative
Appraisal for Interreg II
Financial Management

The following consultancy firms were employed;

Apex Catering Ltd.
Belmin Purchasing Systems Ltd.
Cabinet Office
CAPITA
Careertrack
CCTA
CFM
Colin Stutt consulting
Coopers and Lybrand
Digital Equipment Corporation
European S/W
Gilpin Black
International Training services
Helm
Horizon Services Ltd.
KPMG
Logotech
McDonnell Systems
NCC Services
P.A.C.E. Ltd.
Ronsard Fleet Services
SGSYARSLEY
CFNM

Youth Service

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what have been the number of full-time professional staff employed in the youth service over the past 10 years. [35005]

Mr. Ancram: There are currently 243 full-time professional workers employed in the youth service. Details for the past 10 years are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the current capital expenditure on the youth service in Northern Ireland; and if he will list the projects funded. [35003]

Mr. Ancram: Planned expenditure on capital grant to voluntary youth in 1995–96 is £2,000. In addition the five education and library boards have estimated that, in total, they plan to spend £409,000 in 1995–96 on capital works—major works, minor works and the purchase of furniture, equipment and property. The total includes provision for starting one major new capital project, Taghnevan youth and community centre, Craigavon. Details of individual minor projects and other expenditure are not available.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what has been the expenditure per head on the youth service in Northern Ireland in constant price terms over the past 10 years. [35004]

Mr. Ancram: In the 10-year period 1983–84 to 1993–94, the expenditure per young person aged five to 25 on the youth service in Northern Ireland, at constant 1993–94 prices was:

1983–84: £22.94
1984–85: £23.64
1985–86: £23.14
1986–87: £23.87
1987–88: £23.95
1988–89: £23.60
1989–90: £23.05
1990–91: £23.42
1991–92: £25.19
1992–93: £28.82
1993–94: £31.07

The figures from 1992–93 include the youth element of education and library board administration costs.

Mott MacDonald Ltd. and NatWest Markets

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to his answer of 10 July, *Official Report*, column *446*, what is the value of the contract for the consortium of Mott MacDonald Ltd. and NatWest Markets. [35019]

Mr. Moss: The answer is £244,850.

Student Funding

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the cost in cash and real terms of a full-time equivalent student in further education in each of the past 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [34744]

Mr. Ancram: The information is available only from 1991–92 to 1993–94 on a comparable basis and is as follows:

Net institutional funding per full-time equivalent student

Financial year	*Cash* £	*1993–94 prices* £
1991–92	2,520	2,701
1992–93	2,463	2,538
1993–94[1]	2,374	2,374

[1] Provisional.

University Lecturers

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the age profile of lecturing staff in each university in Northern Ireland. [34740]

Mr. Ancram: The percentage age profile of staff for the academic year 1984–85 to 1993–94 for each of the two universities in NI is as follows:

	Mean age (years)		*Percentage aged*			
			Under 35 years		*55 years and over*	
	Queens University Belfast (QUB)	*University of Ulster (UU)*	*QUB*	*UU*	*QUB*	*UU*
1984–85	41.5	41.5	24.8	21.2	11.3	8.4
1985–86	41.5	41.5	21.1	21.2	9.3	7.8
1986–87	42.3	42.2	20.2	17.8	10.5	8.3
1987–88	42.8	42.7	18.8	16.5	10.8	9.1
1988–89	43.3	43.0	15.6	16.0	11.8	8.7
1989–90	43.3	43.3	16.7	15.2	12.3	8.6
1990–91	43.4	43.7	17.2	15.0	12.3	10.9
1991–92	43.8	44.0	17.8	15.0	13.6	11.5
1992–93	44.1	44.1	17.5	15.4	14.6	12.1
1993–94	44.0	44.8	17.9	14.0	15.1	14.0

Four-year-olds (Primary Schools)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of four-year-old children are in primary schools. [34747]

Mr. Ancram: At 31 December 1994, 49.8 per cent. of four-year-old children were at primary school.

Higher Education Buildings

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the size of the backlog of maintenance in higher education buildings in Northern Ireland which needs to be undertaken to meet statutory requirements; and what proposals he has to carry out the work. [34749]

Mr. Ancram: The KDK report of 1992 identified a backlog of maintenance in the Northern Ireland universities, of which some £12.5 million related to meeting statutory requirements.

Since 1992, the universities have spent £15 million on backlog maintenance, of which the Department has provided grant of £7 million.

Livestock Premium Schemes

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the cost of the beef special premium scheme in 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34979]

Mr. Ancram: The outturn for the 1994–95 financial year was £37.499 million.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the cost of the sheep annual premium scheme in 1994–95; what proportion of the United Kingdom figure this represents; and if he will make a statement. [35124]

Mr. Ancram: The cost of the sheep annual premium scheme in 1994–95 was £28.5 million. This amount is £7.2 million of the total figure for the UK.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the estimated cost of the suckler cow premium scheme for 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34980]

Mr. Ancram: The outturn for the 1994–95 financial year was £36.4 million.

Department of Education (Compulsory Competitive Tendering)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which activities of the Department of Education are currently under consideration for compulsory competitive tendering. [35006]

Mr. Ancram: There are no plans at present for further compulsory competitive tendering in the Department of Education for Northern Ireland.

Surplus School Places

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals there are for a rationalisation programme by the removal of school places during the coming school year. [34742]

Mr. Ancram: The education and library boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools have been asked to review the position of all primary schools with an enrolment of fewer than 60 pupils and secondary schools with an enrolment of fewer than 300 pupils.

At present there are no specific proposals for the rationalisation or closure of schools in the coming school year.

Higher Education

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on his strategic plan for higher education in the further education sector. [34743]

Mr. Ancram: Criteria setting a framework for the development of higher education courses in further education colleges were announced in February 1993. In addition, an advisory group was set up to advise on the development of such work in this sector. That group reported in December 1994, recommending a control on growth in full-time higher level provision of some 5 per cent. to 10 per cent.

In line with the policy of consolidation in the number of full-time higher education students throughout the United Kingdom, overall intake levels for such courses in further education in 1995–96 will be allowed to rise by no more than 10 per cent. as compared with 1994–95. Colleges can, though, develop programmes through the part-time mode, subject to normal approval procedures.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what specific proposals he has for expanding the number of higher education places in Northern Ireland. [34748]

Mr. Ancram: None. In line with present Government policy for the United Kingdom, full-time undergraduate higher education places in Northern Ireland universities are constrained to a level consistent with the 1993–94 age participation index.

Part-time and postgraduate places are not subject to this constraint.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* numbers and *(b)* percentage of Northern Ireland students who have gained places in higher education institutions studied outside the Province in each of the past 10 years. [35328]

Mr. Ancram: The information is available only for the years 1985–86 to 1993–94 for new entrants to higher education courses, and is as follows:

	Total new entrants	*Total studying outside NI*	*Percentage studying outside NI*
1985–86	11,857	2,552	21.5
1986–87	11,803	2,677	22.7
1987–88	12,581	2,928	23.3
1988–89	13,537	3,406	25.2
1989–90	14,816	4,015	27.1
1990–91	15,952	4,184	26.2
1991–92	17,168	4,312	25.1
1992–93	18,949	5,078	26.8
1993–94	20,410	5,494	26.9

Universities (Student:Staff Ratio)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what changes there have been in the student:staff ratio in Northern Ireland universities in the past 10 years. [34745]

Mr. Ancram: The information is as follows:

Year	*Student staff ratio*
1984–85	12:0
1985–86	12:1
1986–87	12:2
1987–88	13:0
1988–89	13:9

Year	Student staff ratio
1989–90	13:8
1990–91	14:4
1991–92	15:5
1992–93	15:5
1993–94	16:5

Nursery Education

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how his new initiative on nursery education will be affected by the fact that the school starting age in Northern Ireland is different from England. [34746]

Mr. Ancram: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 11 July, *Official Report*, columns *519-20*.

Class Sizes

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the average size in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Northern Ireland and (ii) each local education authority area in Northern Ireland. [35182]

Mr. Ancram: The information is not available for secondary schools.

The information requested for primary schools is as follows:

Area	
i. Northern Ireland	24.1
ii. Area Board	
Belfast	25.2
Western	23.9
North-Eastern	24.4
South-Eastern	23.9
Southern	23.4

Ports (Privatisation)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action is being taken either by him or the port authorities about the privatisation of ports in Northern Ireland. [35288]

Mr. Moss: The Ports (Northern Ireland) Order came into effect on 2 January 1995. This would enable the privatisation of the Northern Ireland trust ports. It also provides reserve powers for the Department to initiate the privatisation of a port with a turnover in excess of £5.4 million, but these powers are not exercisable until two years after the order came into effect. The port authorities in Northern Ireland are currently examining the implications of this legislation.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what financial support from the European Union the ports of Northern Ireland would become ineligible if they were privatised. [35290]

Mr. Moss: European Union structural funds grants which are currently available to public sector ports in Northern Ireland would continue to be available in the event of privatisation.

Prison Sentences (Remission)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of specific changes to which legislation is necessary to bring levels of remission on prison sentences in Northern Ireland into line with practice in England and Wales; and what plans he has for such changes. [35374]

Sir John Wheeler: To bring the law on release of prisoners in Northern Ireland in line with England and Wales would require provisions equivalent to those in part II of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, together with the creation of a parole board for Northern Ireland. The Government have no plans to make these changes at this time.

Ports (European Financial Assistance)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action is being taken by Northern Ireland ports to seek financial assistance through the European Union. [35289]

Mr. Moss: The ports of Belfast, Londonderry, Warrenpoint and Larne have all submitted applications for European regional development fund assistance to the transportation sub-programme which is part of the Northern Ireland single programme. Several projects at each of the ports have been given preliminary acceptance to the sub-programme and letters of offer have already been issued for four projects at Londonderry and one at Larne.

Londonderry and Warrenpoint have also submitted projects to the Interreg II initiative and these will be considered in due course.

Northern Ireland Railways

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what have been the findings of the study he commissioned to investigate ways in which private sector elements could be introduced into Northern Ireland railways operations. [35291]

Mr. Moss: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Colchester, North (Mr. Jenkin) on 11 January, *Official Report*, column *146*.

British Fluoridation Association

Mr. Hume: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funds he or his agencies have provided to, and what purchases they have made from the British Fluoridation Association. [34395]

Mr. Moss: The question is taken as referring to the British Fluoridation Society. The Department of Health and Social Services has paid an annual grant to the society since 1992–93. The amounts were as follows:

Year	Amount £
1992–93	1,795
1993–94	1,850
1994–95	1,924
1995–96	1,982

The Eastern health and social services board made a one-off payment of £150 to the society in January 1995 towards the cost of a conference on water fluoridation. Health and social services boards and the Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland purchase information leaflets from the society. Details of such purchases are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Inward Investment

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the Northern Ireland share of Inward Investment projects coming into the United Kingdom in each of the past 10 years as measured by *(a)* the number of projects and *(b)* number of jobs to be created. [35173]

Mr. Ancram: The inward investment projects secured by the Industrial Development Board over the past 10 years are set out in the table and are shown as a percentage of projects notified to the Department of Trade and Industry's Invest in Britain Bureau.

	Inward Investment projects		*Jobs promoted*	
		UK share Percentage		*UK share Percentage*
1994–1995	10	2.4	1,969	5.4
1993–1994	13	3.1	2,309	5.8
1992–1993	10	3.0	1,945	12.3
1991–1992	11	3.1	430	1.9
1990–1991	13	3.6	1,294	5.4
1989–1990	14	3.8	1,977	5.5
1988–1989	7	2.1	1,856	7.0
1987–1988	12	3.3	867	2.6
1986–1987	21	5.9	799	4.1
1985–1986	22	6.3	813	2.7

Health Service Providers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to his answer of 9 December, *Official Report*, column *388*, if he will update the figures on non-NHS provider spending. [35442]

Mr. Moss: The information requested is not available. The final accounts of the health and social services boards for 1994–95 are not completed.

The expenditure of health and social services trusts on the purchase of health and personal social services from non NHS/HPSS providers cannot be separately identified from the final accounts of the trusts.

Private Patients

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to his answer of 25 November 1994, *Official Report*, column *406*, if he will update the figures on private patient income. [35491]

Mr. Moss: The information is not available in the exact form requested. The accounts of the health and social services boards are not yet available. The table gives income from private patients for each health and social services trust for 1994–95. This information has been extracted from the 1994–95 accounts of the health and social services trusts These accounts are as yet unaudited and therefore the figures supplied may be subject to change.

Since the original information was supplied a further seven trusts were established on 1 April 1994.

Table 1: Private patient income by health and social services trust for 1994–95 (provisional)

HSS trust	*1994–95 £000*
Belfast City Hospital Trust	426
Eastern Ambulance Trust	8
Greenpark Trust	371
Royal Group of Hospitals Trust	1,366
Ulster, North Down and Ards Hospital Trust	413
Craigavon Group of Hospitals Trust	142
Mater Infirmorum Hospital Trust	16
Newry and Mourne Hospitals Trust	159
South and East Belfast Community Trust	27
Down and Lisburn Trust	46
Craigavon and Banbridge Community Trust	0
North Down and Ards Community Trust	0
North and West Belfast Community Trust	0

NHS Trusts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to his answer of 8 December 1994, *Official Report*, column *325*, if he will update the figures on trust start-up costs. [35503]

Mr. Moss: The additional figures for trust start-up costs in Northern Ireland since 8 December are as follows:

Operational date 1 April 1995	*£*
Causeway HSS Trust	215,000
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service HSS Trust[1]	214,000

[1] This trust was established following the dissolution of the Eastern Ambulance Service HSS Trust on 1 April 1995

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list by wave and by region *(a)* the number of non-executive directors and *(b)* the number of chairs of NHS trust boards by salary band. [35505]

Mr. Moss: Since regional authorities do not exist in Northern Ireland, it is not possible to provide the information in the form requested. Information on appointments to HSS trusts in Northern Ireland is set out in the table:

	Non-executive directors	*Chairmen Band 1 £19,285*	*Band 2 £17,145*	*Band 3 £15,125*
Wave 1	5	1	—	—
Wave 2	43	3	4	2
Wave 3	[1]14	—	1	2
Wave 4	[1]9	—	1	1

[1] One non-executive director post remains to be filled.

GP Fundholders

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what have been the costs of assisting general practitioner fundholders with information technology expenditure in each year since 1991–92. [35388]

Mr. Moss: The GP fundholding scheme in Northern Ireland commenced in April 1993. The figures given for the first four years in the table represent the actual costs of the assistance given to GP fundholders in respect of information technology. The figure given for 1995–96 represents the total allocation made for this purpose to the four health and social services boards, from which fundholders will be reimbursed.

Year	*Amount £*
1991–92	nil
1992–93	617,879
1993–94	751,558
1994–95	427,399
1995–96	775,000

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was allocated to GP fundholders in management allowances in each year since the start of the scheme. [35390]

Mr. Moss: The information requested is given in the table. The figures for the first three years represent the management allowance payments made to GP fundholders. The figure for 1995–96 represents the total allocation made to the four health and social services boards for management allowances purposes, from which fundholders will be reimbursed.

Year	*Amount £*
1992–93	345,215
1993–94	1,042,725
1994–95	1,652,692
1995–96	3,207,117

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34608]

Sir John Wheeler *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* In the last 12 months, one case of unfair dismissal was brought against the Department of Finance and Personnel. The case was withdrawn before it came to hearing. Legal costs of £2,966.52, including VAT, were incurred by the Department; no compensation was paid to the officer dismissed. One unfair dismissal case was brought against the Department of Environment for Northern Ireland and it was successful. The total cost, including legal fees and compensation, was £3,300.

One officer in the Northern Ireland Office has made an application for unfair dismissal to the office of the industrial tribunal. This case has not come to hearing.

Sickness Absence

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days were lost in sickness absence in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34609]

Sir John Wheeler *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* In 1994–95 358,059 days were lost through sick absence, representing 6.6 per cent. of the total number of potential working days. It is estimated that the cost of sick absence in 1994–95 was £24.8 million.

These statistics exclude industrial staff whose records are not held centrally.

Hypothermia (Deaths)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths from hypothermia took place among *(a)* men aged 65 years and over and *(b)* women aged 60 years and over in each year from 1990, by region. [34172]

Mr. Moss *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The figures are as follows:

Deaths from hypothermia

Year	*Health and Social Services Board*				
	Eastern	*Northern*	*Southern*	*Western*	*Northern Ireland*
Males aged 65+ years					
1990	2	1	2	0	5
1991	1	2	0	2	5
1992	1	0	0	0	1
1993	1	1	0	0	2
1994	1	1	0	2	4
Females aged 60+ years					
1990	0	1	0	0	1
1991	4	0	0	1	5
1992	1	1	0	2	4
1993	2	1	0	3	6
1994	3	0	0	0	3

SCOTLAND

Civil Servants

Mrs. Ray Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list for the Agriculture and Fisheries Department in the Scottish Office *(a)* civil servants who have left the service and their grade, *(b)* voluntary redundancies and their grade, *(c)* compulsory redundancies and their grade and *(d)* those given early retirement and their grade for (i) 1993, (ii) 1994 and (iii) 1995 expressed as a number and a percentage. [33668]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the number of staff in the Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department by grade, for *(a)* 1993, *(b)* 1994 and *(c)* 1995. [33669]

Mr. Forsyth: The number of permanent staff in the Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department excluding its executive agencies by grade is shown in the table. The figures relate to 1 April in the years from 1993 to 1995.

Habitats Directive

Mr. Macdonald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will extend the consultation period on the habitats directive to allow objectors to marine sites to make further representations to the Government; and if he will publish the list of sites to which objections have been received and from whom. [33757]

Mr. Kynoch: The Government are presently considering responses received to the consultation exercise on the list of possible marine special areas of conservation under the EC habitats directive. Once this is complete, the Government will announce how we propose to take matters forward.

In line with normal procedure, full sets of the responses received will shortly be made available for public inspection in departmental libraries, apart from any instances where respondents asked for their comments to be kept confidential.

Staff in post in the Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department at 1 April

Grade	1993	1994	1995
Grade 2	1.0	1.0	1.0
Grade 3	2.0	2.0	2.0
Grade 4	2.0	3.0	2.0
Grade 5	12.0	13.0	12.0
Grade 6	11.0	9.0	11.0
Grade 7	66.0	66.0	60.6
Senior Executive Officer	9.0	8.0	8.0
Higher Executive Officer	50.0	52.0	50.2
Executive Officer	72.0	72.0	66.9
Administrative Officer	135.0	135.0	130.9
Administrative Assistant	123.5	135.5	138.9
Chief Food and Dairy Officer	1.0	1.0	1.0
Food and Dairy Officer	4.0	4.0	2.0
Area Meat and Livestock Inspector	2.0	2.0	1.0

Staff in post in the Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department at 1 April

Grade	1993	1994	1995
Principal Agricultural Officer	12.0	11.0	10.0
Principal Horticultural Officer	1.0	1.0	1.0
Senior Agricultural Officer	48.0	46.0	44.0
Senior Horticultural Officer	1.0	1.0	1.0
Higher Horticultural Officer	—	1.0	1.0
Higher Agricultural Officer	56.0	57.0	60.0
Higher Marketing Officer (Horticulture)	4.0	4.0	4.0
Higher Marketing Officer (Poultry)	3.0	3.0	1.0
Agricultural Officer	115.5	126.0	118.0
Horticultural Officer	3.0	2.0	2.0
Marketing Officer (Horticulture)	5.0	7.0	6.0
Marketing Officer (Poultry)	3.0	3.0	3.0
Farm Manager	1.0	1.0	1.0
Senior Scientific Officer	36.0	36.0	33.0
Higher Scientific Officer	46.5	46.5	44.0
Scientific Officer	37.5	34.5	35.0
Assistant Scientific Officer	27.0	27.0	24.0
Senior Economic Assistant	3.5	3.5	3.5
Economic Assistant	1.0	—	1.0
Senior Assistant Statistician	2.0	1.0	1.0
Assistant Statistician	1.0	1.0	1.0
Senior Professional and Technical Officer	12.0	10.0	8.0
Higher Professional and Technical Officer	12.0	10.0	10.0
Professional and Technical Officer	32.0	30.0	29.0
Graphics Officer	2.0	2.0	2.0
Technical Grade 1	1.0	—	—
Technical Grade 2	5.0	3.0	2.0
First Officer (Executive)	1.0	1.0	1.0
Higher Photographic Officer	1.0	1.0	1.0
Librarian	1.0	1.0	1.0
Assistant Librarian	1.0	2.0	2.0
Senior Personal Secretary	1.0	1.0	1.0
Personal Secretary	24.0	24.5	22.5
Support Grade Band 1	—	—	2.0
Support Grade Band 2	9.5	6.5	7.5
Typing Manager	3.0	1.0	—
Typist	33.5	41.5	42.1
Industrial Grades	34.0	29.0	25.0
Total	1,070.5	1,079.5	1,038.1

Health Care International

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which members of the Scottish Industrial Development Advisory Board were present when Health Care International was considered and approved *(a)* in April 1988 and *(b)* in February 1990. [34017]

Mr. Kynoch: As regards the consideration of the Health Care International project by the Scottish Industrial Development Advisory Board in April 1988 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Derby, (Mrs. Beckett) on 4 July, column *143*. As regards the board's consideration of the project in February 1990, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 17 February, column *863*, in which I listed the board's membership at the date concerned: all the members were present at the February 1990 meeting with the exception of Mr. A. K. Smith.

Mr. Canavan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he will list those health boards which have contracts with Health Care International, Clydebank, for the provision of services; indicating the services provided in each case, the cost or estimated cost of each contract for the financial years *(a)* 1994–95 an *(b)* 1995–96, and the total costs already incurred for (i) in-patient and (ii) out-patient treatment. [34752]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The table lists the available information on the contracts between Scottish NHS bodies and HCI up to 1 June 1995.

Separate information by financial year is not readily available.

Contracts between NHS bodies in Scotland and HCI up to 1 June 1995

	HB contracts			*Trust contracts*			*GP fundholder contracts*		
Health boards and trusts	*Numbers*	*Cost (£)*	*Services*	*Numbers*	*Cost (£)*	*Services*	*Numbers*	*Cost (£)*	*Services*
Argyll and Clyde HB	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5,350	Cardiac Surgery
Inverclyde Royal NHS Trust	—	—	—	27	4,860	MRI Scans	—	—	—
Ayrshire and Arran HB	2	16,000	Cardiac surgery	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Ayrshire NHS Trust	—	—	—	1	8,000	Vascular	—	—	—
Borders HB	16	72,134	Cardiac Surgery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fife HB	89	30,624	Orthopaedic O/P[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Queen Margaret Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	37	10,470	MRI Scans	—	—	—
Forth Valley HB	202	43,153	193 Orthopaedic O/P[1] 9 Orthopaedic I/P[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grampian HB	9	8,946	9 oral surgery	—	—	—	38	27,263	Urology
								27,263	Orthopaedics
Greater Glasgow HB	14	105,238	Cardiac surgery		—	—	5	1,415	MRI scans
								1,415	1 CT scan
				—				1,415	1 Hernia scan
Lothian HB	15	41,698	Cardiac surgery	—	—	—	1	3,500	Hip replacement
Shetland HB	13	3,250	Ophthalmic	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	360	321,043	6,409	65	23,330	—	45	37,528	

[1] O/P—out-Patients.
[2] I/P—in-Patients.

New Zealand Visitors

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the dates and purposes of visits by officials or Ministers from New Zealand to the Scottish Office Education Department in the last three years. [34127]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The information is as follows:

Date	*Visitors*	*Purpose of visit*
2–6 November 1992	Ms Patricia Niven Reviewer, Management Education Review Office Christchurch	To discuss management of educational institutions and the review, audit and inspection of these institutions.
18 March 1994	Mr. Alan Male New Zealand Qualifications Authority Wellington	To discuss models of quality audit and quality assessment.
12–13 May 1994	Dr. Judith Aitken Chief Review Officer Education Review Office Wellington	To discuss school planning self-review and performance indicators.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34695]

Mr. Kynoch: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small businesses in the UK economy. The Government continue to help small companies by keeping inflation and interest rates low and reducing legislation and administrative burdens. They also provide direct assistance where appropriate.

The White Paper published in May 1995 outlines a programme of measures to assist growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

Measures operated directly by my Department to assist small businesses include regional selective assistance, regional enterprise grant for investment and regional enterprise grant for innovation. For the period 1994–95, my Department made 219 offers of RSA to the value of £68 million to small companies—those employing fewer than 250. This contributed to the creation of 9,607 planned new jobs and the safeguarding of 1,780 existing jobs. Under both the investment and innovation elements of the regional enterprise grants scheme, 258 offers to the

value of £3.7 million were made in Scotland in 1994–95 to companies contributing to the creation of 969 planned new jobs and the safeguarding of 628 existing jobs. RIG is available to companies with fewer than 25 employees while RIN is open to companies employing less than 50 people.

During the same period, my Department also made 27 SMART awards to small businesses with less than 50 employees and nine SPUR grants to companies with up to 250 employees to help them to develop highly innovation new products and processes. The values of these offers were respectively £1.2 million and £1.1 million.

In addition, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and their network of 22 local enterprise companies have at their disposal a wide range of measures through which they are able to support new and established small businesses.

Following major research involving Scotland's business community, the media, the finance and education sectors and the business support networks, SE published in 1993 its business birth rate strategy. The strategy aims to stimulate the encouragement of entrepreneurship and help improve the environment for new and small businesses. It is guided by a number of themes: to unlock the potential of Scottish entrepreneurs; to improve access to finance; to widen the entrepreneurial base; and to develop and support growth in key sectors.

I am greatly encouraged by the number of recent initiatives which have been generated or informed by the strategy and which are targeted at factors which SE's research identified as constraining the birth and growth of businesses. These include the establishment of the Scottish business shop network in partnership with the local authorities, chambers of commerce and colleges. The network in partnership with the local authorities, chambers of commerce and colleges. The network now comprises 31 first-stop business advice shops operating throughout Scotland, and which in 1994–95 handled a total of 60,000 enquiries. The small business loan scheme, operated in partnership with the Scottish banks, provides capped interest rate loans for start-up companies and existing small businesses. The LINC Scotland initiative provides an advisory service for young and growing companies seeking private investors. SE's strategy has taken particular account of the need to make support available to under-represented groups, including women, non-home owners and the under-35s.

I am very pleased that the number of new companies formed in Scotland in the six months to April 1995 is 32 per cent. higher than over the same period a year before. I believe that the initiatives which have flowed from SE's business birth rate strategy have made a major contribution to that achievement.

Actual and planned performance indicators for the enterprise bodies in Scotland, including advice to businesses and new businesses start-ups, are published in their annual report and in the expenditure plans for the Departments of the Secretary of State.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as "www,open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34684]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: Over the past 12 months, my Department has made available to the public via the government world wide web server information on a number of aspects of its work. These include information on:

- educational research in Scotland;
- summaries of the available Scottish Office Factsheets;
- sample statistics including:
  - Scottish Statistics 1994
  - Index of Production and Construction in Scotland; and
- outlines of the functions of the my Department's Social Work Services Group and Her Majesties Industrial Pollution Inspectorate.

Information is also available on the Scottish Office pages for the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland.

My Department will review the usage of the service in due course before deciding what additional and new information will be made available this way.

Schools (Fundraising)

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has as to how much has been raised by fund-raising activities by schools in each education authority, in order to purchase basic classroom materials. [34488]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: No information is available centrally on which to base an estimate.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is his policy in respect of schools engaging in fund–raising activities in order to purchase new reading books. [34489]

Mr. Robertson: Local authorities spend around £2.5 billion a year on education of which around £9 million is spent on text and library books for schools. Schools have for many years undertaken fund–raising activities to provide additional funding across a wide range of activities.

Forestry Commission (Sales)

Mr. Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list Forestry Commission land and woodlands disposed of since 31 December 1992. [34809]

Mr. Kynoch: Lists giving details of forestry land sold by the Forestry Commission in 1993 and 1994 are in the Library. A list of all the areas of land sold in 1995 will be placed in the Library early next year.

NHS Trust Boards

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list by wave and region *(a)* the number of non-executive directors and *(b)* the number of chairs of NHS trust boards by salary band. [35508]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Private Patient Income

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to his answer of 24 November 1994, *Official Report*, columns *333-36*, if he will update the figures on private patient income. [35492]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The figures on private patient income for the period up to 1993–94 provided in the previous answer have subsequently been confirmed as final. Income figures for 1994–95 are currently not available.

Roads Budget

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on the roads budget in Scotland in each year since 1979. [35656]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information for total Government spending since 1979 on the motorway and trunk road network, which is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend, is set out in the table below. The table does not include expenditure by local authorities on local roads which are their responsibility.

	£ million
1979–80	84
1980–81	91
1981–82	104
1982–83	110
1983–84	106
1984–85	115
1985–86	119
1986–87	115
1987–88	125
1988–89	131
1989–90	163
1990–91	200
1991–92	202
1992–93	231
1993–94	233
1994–95	[1]259

[1] Estimated outturn.

NHS Expenditure

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on public relations by the NHS in Scotland in each year since 1989. [35653]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has reached a conclusion on the prior options study of the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency, and if he will make a statement. [36158]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: The prior options study has systematically and thoroughly examined the various options for reform of the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency. I am satisfied that the scope for possible alternative options for the delivery of functions currently undertaken by the agency has been carefully considered and I have concluded that the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency should remain an executive agency for the next five years. The aims and objectives set for SFPA in the initial framework document were robust and sufficiently clear to be testable. The agency's framework document is now being reviewed and will take account of an evaluation of the agency's performance since launch, which was completed in May 1994. This concluded that the trend in the performance of the agency had been upwards and its targets for 1993–94 were substantially achieved. Further information about the agency's performance will be contained in the 1995 annual report.

Historic Scotland

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when the annual report and accounts of Historic Scotland for 1994–95 will be published. [36159]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Historic Scotland's annual report and accounts for 1994–95 have today been laid before both Houses of Parliament.

Scottish Agricultural Science Agency

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he intends to publish the annual report and accounts of the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency for 1994–95. [36159]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The annual report and accounts of the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency for 1994–95 have today been laid before both Houses of Parliament.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will indicate the date after which existing local authorities must have the agreement of their successors before entering into major financial transactions. [36161]

Mr. Kynoch: Following consultations with Scottish local authorities, I have today made the Local Government (Relevant Date) (Scotland) Order 1995 which requires existing local authorities, joint boards and the Central Scotland Water Development Board, from 1 September 1995, to have the agreement of the relevant successor bodies before disposing of land or entering into revenue or capital contracts above specified values. Where the successor body is a joint police or fire board, the date in question will be 28 days after the establishment of the relevant board.

In deciding on these dates, I have given careful consideration to the views of existing and new councils. There is clearly a need to avoid possible disruption to local government services while at the same time protecting the interests of incoming councils. I believe that the date of 1 September provides new councils with the opportunity to set in place appropriate mechanisms for dealing expeditiously with requests for their consent.

Court Waiting Periods

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what objectives for reducing court waiting periods have been established; what targets have been set for 1995–96

in respect of court waiting periods for the Supreme and Sheriff courts; and if he will make a statement about the performance of the Supreme courts and each of the Sheriff courts in 1994–95. [36162]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The programming of court business is a matter for the judiciary. Acting in co-operation with the judiciary in the Supreme and sheriff courts, the Government seek to provide the resources which will allow speedy access to justice. Having regard to the time required by parties to have their cases properly prepared the following objectives have been adopted:

> the Lord President of the Court of Session has accepted the recommendations of a committee chaired by Lord Maxwell relating to the reduction of waiting periods in the Supreme courts: the target is to reduce waiting periods to the recommended levels and, subject to any acceleration in the rate of increase in court work, maintain waiting periods at that level: for certain categories of hearing, additional targets involving much reduced waiting periods, have been set;
>
> Sheriffs principal have agreed to overall targets of reducing waiting periods for summary criminal trials in the Sheriff courts to 12 weeks or less and to hold them at that level; and to maintain waiting periods at 12 weeks or less for civil cases in the Sheriff courts.

Targets for the Scottish Court Service for 1995–96 are set out in the reply to the hon. Member for Aberdeen, South (Mr. Robertson) on 31 March 1995, *Official Report*, columns *803–84*. Performance against those targets will be published in the annual report of the Scottish Courts Service which was established as an executive agency from 3 April 1995.

The main targets for waiting periods for 1994–95 are set down in the table—"waiting period" is the period between a trial or proof being requested or an appeal being received and the date assigned expressed in weeks—and national performance for that year is noted in the second column in the table:

		1994–95 Target	*Performance*
Criminal Appeal Business	Summary prosecutions: Notes of Appeal against Sentence and Stated cases (accused in custody)	4	3
Court of Session	*(a)* Ordinary proofs	20	21
	(b) Defended Consistorial proofs	17	17
Sheriff Courts (National average) as at March 1995	*(a)* civil proofs/debates	12	13.0
	(b) Summary Criminal Trials	12	16.1

In 1994–95 waiting periods of 12 weeks or less were achieved for civil debates-proofs in 88 per cent. of sheriff courts.

Waiting periods of 12 weeks or less were achieved for summary criminal business in 76 per cent. of sheriff courts.

Performance of individual sheriff courts at 31 March 1995 is set out in the table:

Performance of individual Sheriff courts as at 31 March 1995

Court	*Civil proofs*	*Summary criminal trials*
Aberdeen	19	13
Glasgow	17	24
Kirkcudbright	15	12
Dundee	13	15
Campbeltown	12	8
Dumbarton	12	11
Dumfries	12	12
Inverness	12	12
Kirkcaldy	12	10
Lanark	12	12
Linlithgow	12	22
Paisley	12	12
Portree	12	8
Dingwall	11	11
Elgin	11	11
Falkirk	11	12
Hamilton	11	17
Alloa	10	11
Ayr	10	11
Dunoon	10	11
Greenock	10	12
Jedburgh	10	10
Kilmarnock	10	10
Peterhead	10	11
Stirling	10	12
Wick	10	12
Arbroath	9	12
Banff	9	8
Cupar	9	9
Duns	9	9
Edinburgh	9	11
Kirkwall	9	9
Oban	9	11
Peebles	9	10
Selkirk	9	10
Stonehaven	9	11
Stranraer	9	10
Dornoch	8	10
Dunfermline	8	13
Fort William	8	18
Lerwick	8	8
Lochmaddy	8	8
Rothesay	8	10
Stornoway	8	10
Tain	8	9
Haddington	7	12
Perth	7	14
Airdrie	6	17
Forfar	6	6

In addition, the sheriffs principal have agreed that sheriff court programmes should be designed to ensure that the number of trials adjourned due to lack of court time should not exceed 5 per cent. of the total number set down, a target met in 73 per cent. of sheriff courts.

Sheriff and Supreme Courts (Office Business)

Mr. Gallie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what targets have been set for completing office business in the sheriff courts and Supreme courts; and what performance was secured in 1994–95. [36163]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The targets set for completion of office business in the sheriff courts in 1994–95 are set out in the table. The percentage figures following each target indicate the proportion of sheriff courts achieving the target figures or better in the course of the year. More detailed information on the performance

of individual court offices will be made available to local court advisory committees. Similar targets applied in the Supreme courts and 95 per cent. of these were achieved in 1994–95, with the remaining 5 per cent. achieved in part.

Targets for the Scottish Court Service for 1995–96 are set out in the reply to the hon. Member for Aberdeen, South (Mr. Robertson) on 31 March 1995, *Official Report*, columns *803–4*. Performance against those targets will be published in the annual report of the Scottish Court Service which was established as an executive agency from 3 April 1995.

Targets for sheriff clerk offices and performance

1994–95

To issue the first deliverance in all ordinary writs, or return to sender, within two working days of receipt. 96 per cent.

To issued the first deliverance in all summary cause actions (including small claims), or return to sender, within three working days of receipt. 96 per cent.

To draft, in preparation for signature, all final ordinary decrees in absence (excluding divorce) within one working day of receipt of the minute craving decree. 91 per cent.

To draft, within seven days of receipt of the affidavits, in preparation for signature, all final decrees in undefended ordinary actions of divorce *or* return the affidavits to the sender. 90 per cent.

To draft, in preparation for signature, all decrees in actions of divorce under the simplified procedure within one working day of expiry of the period of notice. 97 per cent.

To issue extract decrees in all ordinary actions (excluding divorce) within three working days of the date of ordering *or* the expiry of the days of appeal—whichever is the later. 89 per cent.

To issue all summary cause/small claim extract decrees within one working day of the due date. 98 per cent.

To issue extract decrees in all ordinary actions of divorce within one working day of the due date. 80 per cent.

To issue extract decrees of divorce under the simplified procedure within one working day of the due date. 89 per cent.

To issue the first deliverance in all petitions for sequestration/liquidation, or return to sender, within two working days of receipt. 93 per cent.

To prepare for signature the first deliverance in all adoption petitions within one working day of a correct petition being received. 92 per cent.

To scrutinise and accept or reject commissary petitions and inventories within two working days of receipt. 98 per cent.

To issue confirmation within three working days of acceptance of inventory. 93 per cent.

To conduct small estate interviews within seven days from the time an interview is requested. 100 per cent.

To process juror claims for payment, or return to sender, within two working days of receipt. 99 per cent.

To process postal fines (other than unidentified payments) on day of receipt. 99 per cent.

To issue warning letters, means enquiry citations, warrants, extracts, etc, and transfer fines within seven days of the trawl. 99 per cent.

To remit all non-Exchequer receipts to entitled parties within 14 days from the end of the last accountancy period. 99 per cent.

To effect a reconciliation of all outstanding financial penalties on a monthly basis. 100 per cent.

To reply to letter pleas within one working day of the court. 99 per cent.

To order social enquiry and other reports within one working day of the court. 99 per cent.

To complete probation, community service, compensation and fines supervision orders within two working days of the court. 99 per cent.

To issue juror citations in the first instance at least 21 days prior to a jury sitting/trial. 99 per cent.

To reply to all letter inquiries except those which require extensive investigation within two working days of receipt. 97 per cent.

Crofters

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which meetings Ministers in his Department have held with representatives of the Scottish Crofters Union to discuss changes to the crofter building grants and loans schemes. [34665]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* My right hon. Friend the Member for Dumfries (Sir H. Monro), as Minister for Agriculture and the Environment in Scotland, met representatives of the Scottish Crofters Union on 20 October 1994 at which a number of matters were discussed including the crofers etc. building grants and loans scheme.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what changes he is proposing to make to the crofter building grants and loans schemes; and if he will make a statement. [34664]

Mr. Forsyth *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Dumfries (Sir H. Monro), to the hon. Member for Caithness and Sutherland (Mr. Maclennan) on 22 June, column *426*.

Post-natal Paediatricians

Mr. McAvoy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps he is taking to ensure that enough people are being trained as post-natal paediatricians. [34805]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The senior registrar establishment in medical paediatrics in Scotland has been increased from 25 to 28 in 1995, and funding has been provided for the additional posts.

Mr. McAvoy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations Greater Glasgow health board has made to him on difficulties in recruiting post-natal paediatricians. [34803]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* Concern has been expressed about difficulties in recruiting medical staff in various specialties. This reflects trust's increased demand for doctors.

Mr. McAvoy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many vacant posts for post-natal paediatricians there are *(a)* in the Greater Glasgow health board area, *(b)* in the Lanarkshire health board area and *(c)* in Scotland. [34804]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* Information is not available for the sub-speciality of neonatal paediatrics. In medical paediatrics as a whole there were nine vacant consultant posts in Scotland at the end of 1994.

Glasgow Royal Infirmary

Mr. McAvoy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate the capital costs of building a new maternity hospital at the royal infirmary as proposed by Greater Glasgow health board. [34799]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* Initial estimates received from Glasgow Royal Infirmary NHS trust indicate a capital cost of £21.195 million spread over four years. As the trust has yet to complete an outline business case for the project which will involve testing for private finance, the figure cannot be confirmed at this stage.

Rutherglen Maternity Hospital

Mr. McAvoy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will consult Lanarkshire health board on the proposal by Greater Glasgow health board, to close Rutherglen maternity hospital. [34800]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* Lanarkshire health board was fully consulted by Greater Glasgow health board about the proposals for the future of Rutherglen maternity hospital.

Mr. McAvoy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he expects to make a decision on the recommendation from Glasgow health board to close Rutherglen maternity hospital. [34798]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* Greater Glasgow health board has not yet submitted its proposals for the future of Rutherglen maternity hospital to my right hon. Friend for his consideration.

Hospital Closures

Mr. McAvoy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what are the criteria he uses when deciding whether or not to endorse a recommendation from a health board to close a hospital. [34802]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* Before approving closure of any hospital, my right hon. Friend needs to be satisfied that the health board has consulted about its proposals in accordance with established guidance; and that it has considered fully the responses to consultation. My right hon. Friend also takes into account any further relevant information brought to his attention.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation.

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* There have been five complaints of unfair dismissal lodged with industrial tribunals against my Department in the last 12 months; none of these cases is concluded and I am unable therefore to give a figure for costs.

Trees (Planting)

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list in descending order, and by both botanical and common names, his best estimate of the *(a)* acreage and *(b)* hectacreage of (i) softwood and (ii) hardwood species planted throughout forests in the United Kingdom; what new trends are likely over the next (1) 10, (2) 25, (3) 50 and (4) 100 years; and if he will make a statement. [31381]

Mr. Kynoch *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The information is set out in the table. We expect the planting of conifers and broadleaves to continue to increase as a result of the Government's policy, which is designed to achieve a steady expansion of the forest area. The precise trends will depend on many factors including the objectives of individual landowners and the policies of the Government of the day.

Conifers

		Area	
Common name	*Botanical name*	*Hectares (000s)*	*Acres (000s)*
Sitka Spruce	Picea sitchensis	780	1,900
Scots pine	Pinus sylvestris	220	540
Lodgepole pine	Pinus contorta	160	390
Japanese larch	Larix kaempferi	120	290
Hybrid larch	Larix europelis	120	290
Norway spruce	Picea abies	95	230
Corsican pine	Pinus nigra	55	130
Douglas Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii	45	110
European larch	Larix decidua	40	95
Other		95	240

Broadleaves

		Area	
Common name	*Botanical name*	*Hectares (000s)*	*Acres (000s)*
Oak	Quercus species	200	490
Birch	Betula species	160	410
Ash	Fraxinus excelsior	85	210
Beech	Fagus sylvatica	75	190
Sycamore	Acer pseudoplatanus	60	150
Sweet Chesnut	Castanea sativa	35	80
Poplar	Populus species	20	45
Elm	Ulmus species	10	30
Other		220	550

HEALTH

Consultant Oncologists

12. **Mrs. Dunwoody:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the number of consultant oncologists working in the NHS. [33190]

Mr. Malone: The latest available information shows that there were 226 clinical oncology and 59 medical oncology consultants working in the National Health Service in England on 30 September 1993. However, a number of other specialties are involved in the treatment of cancer, including general surgery and anaesthetics.

The Government seek to ensure an adequate supply of appropriately trained doctors in each specialty, including those involved in the treatment of cancer.

Waiting Times (Leeds)

13. **Mr. Battle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on hospital waiting times in Leeds. [33191]

Mr. Malone: Waiting times for in-patient and day case treatment in Leeds have improved considerably over the last year. Only 675 patients out of 13,492 were waiting more than a year for treatment at the two main hospitals this March compared with 2,501 out of 17,252 last March. Along with the rest of the country, Leeds hospitals are working towards achieving the new patient's charter standards for first out-patient appointments so that everyone is seen within 26 weeks of written referral by their general practitioner, with nine out of 10 patients seen within 13 weeks, as soon as possible.

Fundholders

14. **Mr. Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the level of fundholding GP practices in Hereford and Worcester. [33193]

Mr. Malone: There are currently 54 fundholding practices with 263 general practitioners in the Hereford and Worcester family health services authority area providing fundholding services to approximately 70 per cent. of the population. We expect many more GPs to join the scheme next year.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital

15. **Dr. Goodson-Wickes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account he has taken of revised statistics relating to Professor Tomlinson's study in assessing the viability of St. Bartholomew's hospital. [33194]

Mr. Malone: The decision on the future of health services in east London was made on the basis of full assessment of the available data.

NHS Trusts (North Thames)

16. **Mr. John Marshall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the performance of NHS trusts in the North Thames region shown in the latest performance tables. [33195]

Mr. Malone: The performance tables highlight strengths and weaknesses in the performance of national health service trusts in North Thames region. Some of the best figures in the country are achieved in day surgery procedures and there have been real gains in accident and emergency assessment. However, more work is needed to improve performance on waiting times and cancelled operations.

Mental Health

17. **Mr. Hutton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made to meet "The Health of the Nation" targets relating to mental health. [33197]

Mr. Bowis: Good progress is being made towards the target of reducing the overall rate of suicide by at least 15 per cent. by 2000. Figures based on estimates provided by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys show that the suicide rate in England fell by about 6 per cent. between 1993 and 1994.

Work is in hand to quantify progress towards the other two health of the nation targets relating to mental health.

Blood Transfusion Service

18. **Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement about the operation of the blood transfusion service. [33198]

Mr. Sackville: The National Blood authority has undertaken a thorough and widespread consultation on its proposals. The authority's revised proposals have recently been submitted and are being studied carefully. An announcement will be made in due course.

Air Ambulance

19. **Mr. Tony Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times on average the air ambulance has been used in London during the past 12 months. [33199]

Mr. Bowis: This information is not collected centrally. The management of the helicopter emergency medical service is a matter for the Royal Hospitals National Health Service trust. The hon. Member may wish to contact the trust chairman for details.

Doctors and Dentists (NHS Work)

20. **Sir David Knox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors and dentists undertook NHS work at the most recent count; and what were the comparable figures in 1979. [33200]

Mr. Malone: The information requested is shown in the table:

Doctors and dentists in England in 1979, 1993 and 1994

	1979		*1993*		*1994*	
	Doctors	*Dentists*	*Doctors*	*Dentists*	*Doctors*	*Dentists*
Hospital and community health service	45,700	3,900	56,300	3,500	[1]—	[1]—
General practitioners	23,100	12,100	28,500	15,800	28,700	15,900

Notes:

1. All figures rounded to nearest 100.

2. The figures for dentists in general practice include principals, assistants and vocational trainees. Some dentists may have contracts with more than one Family Health Services Authority. These dentists have been counted only once.

3. Some general medical and dental practitioners also do hospital sessions. Theses are included in the hospital and community health services figure. Adding the two rows in the table will produce an element of double counting.

4. All figures exclude locums.

[1] The 1994 figures for hospital and community health service staff should be published in week commencing 24 July 1995.

London Hospital Closures

21. **Mr. Dowd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will name all the hospitals closed in London since April 1991 and those that he plans to close in the next 10 years. [33201]

Mr. Malone: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the right hon. Member for Derby, South (Mrs. Beckett) on 18 April, *Official Report*, column *120*. An updated list of closures and changes of use referred to Ministers for the period of January 1992 to June 1995 will be placed in the Library.

GP Fundholding

22. **Mr. Matthew Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next expects to meet representatives of the National Association of Fundholding Practices to discuss expansion of fundholding; and if he will make a statement. [33202]

Mr. Malone: I meet regularly with the National Association of Fundholding Practices to discuss the continued successful development of the fundholding scheme. General practitioner fundholding has brought significant benefits to patients by reducing waiting times, bringing more services closer to patients and freeing up resources through efficiency savings. The Government want to see these benefits extended to all patients and that is why we are expanding the range of options for GPs to join fundholding from April 1996.

Haemophiliacs (Hepatitis C)

23. **Mr. Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the level of compensation to haemophiliacs who developed hepatitis C from blood products. [33203]

Mr. Sackville: Representations this year about payments to those who have developed hepatitis C through blood products, include six earlier parliamentary questions, a short debate in another place, and four early-day motions. There was also an adjournment debate on 11 July. In addition, Ministers have received 240 letters. Not all these representations were concerned solely or primarily with haemophiliacs.

Prescription Costs

24. **Mr. Pike:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the average cost per prescription item. [33204]

Mr. Malone: The average total cost to the national health service of a prescription item dispensed in 1994–95 in England was £8.62.

Doctors (Clinical Practice)

25. **Mr. Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how NHS doctors are held accountable for the quality of their clinical practice. [33205]

Mr. Malone: The medical profession is governed by self-regulation and the General Medical Council has been given the powers it needs to perform this task. The General Medical Council already has powers to erase, suspend or attach conditions to a doctor's registration in cases of serious misconduct. Under the terms of the Medical (Professional Performance) Bill currently being considered in another place, the General Medical Council will be able to suspend or attach conditions to a doctor's registration in cases of seriously deficient professional performance.

Members of the profession know what standard should be met. Advice and guidance is available to doctors from the General Medical Council in the form of its "blue book"—"Professional Conduct and Discipline: Fitness to Practise."

The medical royal colleges are responsible for setting the standards for postgraduate medical training and influence clinical standards by, for instance, publishing protocols for the management of common conditions.

In addition, doctors employed in the national health service are held accountable in a variety of ways. Junior doctors are accountable to their consultants for their clinical actions. Consultants in most trusts will be accountable to a clinical director for their medical competence. They are also accountable through the NHS procedures for complaints and disciplinary action for poor performance. These procedures may lead to the doctor's suspension or termination of contract.

Community Health Services (Lancashire)

26. **Mr. Elletson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement about community health services in Lancashire. [33206]

Mr. Malone: North West Lancashire health authority is currently developing proposals for continuing health care needs. They will form the basis of a public consultation exercise which is expected to begin on 29 September 1995. They are also planning to boost general practitioner services along the Fylde coast by providing intensive rehabilitation services and primary care support centres.

Community Care

27. **Mr. William O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he last met organisations representing carers to discuss the impact of the community care changes. [33207]

Mr. Bowis: I frequently meet carers and organisations representing carers and discuss a range of matters including community care. Most recently we have worked together to achieve the parliamentary progress of the Carers (Recognition of Services) Act, 1995.

Early Retirement

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff took early retirement in 1994–95; and what was the cost to the NHS. [32814]

Mr. Sackville: I shall write to the hon. Member.

Speech Therapists

Mr. Campbell-Savours: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many speech therapists there are for each health district in the United Kingdom. [33509]

(2) what is the proportion of speech therapists per 1,000 head of population in each health district in the United Kingdom. [33510]

Mr. Malone: Information on the numbers of speech and language therapists will be placed in the Library.

Hospital Visiting (Reimbursements)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a fund for the reimbursement of the hospital visiting costs of the immediate family where they are on low incomes; and if he will make a statement. [33663]

Mr. Bowis: We have no plans to establish such a fund, as it would divert resources away from direct patient care and would impose a considerable administrative burden on the NHS.

Hospital Discharge

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will sponsor a national programme of research into *(a)* the incidence of inappropriate hospital discharge, including the extent to which this leads to re-admission to hospital and *(b)* hospital discharge arrangements which will identify examples of good practice and promote these through the publication of national guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [33662]

Mr. Sackville: We have already supported the unit of health care epidemiology at the university of Oxford to carry out work on readmissions.

General good practice guidance on hospital discharge procedures–"Hospital Discharge Workbook—a manual on hospital discharge procedures" was issued in 1994 to all health authorities, local authorities, general practitioners, hospital and community health services, copies of which are available in the Library.

Teenage Conceptions

Mr. Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many conceptions there were in England in 1992 by girls aged under 16 years; and what were the comparable figures for 1991. [34511]

Mr. Sackville: The information is given in the table. The figures for 1992 update the provisional ones given in my answer of 13 February 1995, *Official Report*, column *497* to the hon. Member for Gower (Mr. Wardell) with final figures.

Number and rate of conceptions to girls aged under 16 in England

Year	*Number of conceptions*	*Conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 13–15*
1991	7,362	9.3
1992	6,786	8.4

Residential Homes

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the number of residential homes providing care in North Yorkshire owned *(a)* privately and *(b)* by the county council; [34499]

(2) what percentage of referrals by North Yorkshire county council are to council-owned residential homes owned by that council. [34500]

Mr. Bowis: In North Yorkshire at 31 March 1994, there were 307 residential care homes owned by the private sector, 66 by the voluntary sector and 70 by the local authority, excluding local authority children's homes.

I understand that, in the financial year to 31 March 1995, North Yorkshire county council arranged 577 permanent admissions to residential care homes. Of these, 245, or 42 per cent., were to local authority residential homes. A further 668 placements were in independent sector nursing homes. In the period 1 January to 31 March 1994, the latest for which central information is available, 76 per cent. of short stay admissions of such residents were to homes owned by the local authority.

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the economic impact on the independent sector of referrals by North Yorkshire county council to residential homes owned by that council. [34503]

Mr. Bowis: My Department does not collect such information but we have made it clear, through conditions on the special transitional grant, that the bulk of the resources transferred to local authorities for their new community care responsibilities must be spent in the independent sector.

Schizophrenia (Stroop Test)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has carried out into monitoring response to therapeutic intervention in schizophrenia using the Stroop test; what have been the results; and if he will make a statement. [34730]

Mr. Bowis: Our research programme is designed to support strategic policy development, not to test the effectiveness of specific therapeutic interventions for individual disorders. The main agency through which the Government support biomedical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council, which receives its grant-in-aid through the office of my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Folic Acid

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what link has been ascertained between the lack of folic acid in the diet and the incidence of spina bifida and anencephaly; and what recommendations the Medical Officer of Health has made on this matter. [35135]

Mr. Bowis: There is no good evidence that the incidence of neural tube defects—NTDs—is related to an habitual lack of folic acid in the diet. However, a Medical Research Council—MRC—trial published in 1991 showed that supplements of 5 mg daily of folic acid reduce the rate of recurrence of NTD in babies of women who have already had an affected pregnancy. The Chief Medical Officer wrote to doctors in August 1991 advising them to prescribe a folic acid supplement for the purpose of preventing reoccurrence of NTDs. Further data since then suggest that supplements as low as 0.4 mg daily might also reduce the risk of first occurrence.

Following the publication of the MRC trial results, the chief medical officers of the UK health Departments set up an expert advisory group. Its report "Folic Acid and the

Prevention of Neural Tube Defects", published in 1992, confirmed that, for the prevention of recurrence, women should take folic acid supplements of 5 mg daily, or 4 mg when these became available. For the prevention of first occurrences, the expert advisory group recommended that all women planning pregnancy should consume additional folate/folic acid prior to conception and during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy by eating more folate rich foods including those fortified with folic acid, and by taking a daily supplement of 0.4 mg of folic acid.

The chief medical officers wrote to all doctors and to other health professionals in December 1992 commending the expert advisory group's recommendations.

A copy of the expert advisory group report is available in the Library.

National Blood Service

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he proposes to meet the chairman of the National Blood Authority to discuss the future of the service; and if he will make a statement. [35137]

(2) what changes have taken place in the past 12 months in each blood service centre in its *(a)* staffing *(b)* service provided; and when he proposes to announce the future pattern of service provision by the national blood transfusion service. [35136]

Mr. Sackville: Ministers have regular meetings with the chairman of the National Blood Authority. Staffing of the national blood service and details of services provided by each blood centre are a matter for that authority.

The National Blood authority has undertaken a thorough and widespread consultation on its proposals. The authority's revised proposals have recently been submitted and are being studied carefully. An announcement will be made in due course.

Waiting Lists (Gynaecology)

Ms. Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many women are currently awaiting an appointment with a specialist gynaecologist in each NHS trust area in England and Wales; [34738]

(2) what is the current maximum waiting time to see a specialist gynaecologist for each NHS trust in England and Wales. [34739]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally for England. Information relating to Wales is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales.

GP Fundholders (Preston)

Mrs. Wise: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner fundholders there are in Preston covering how many patients; and how many general practitioner non-fundholders there are in Preston covering how many patients. [35053]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally. The hon. Member may wish to write to the chairman of the North West regional health authority for details.

Leaving Care

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary for Health what action he is taking to ensure the welfare of young people leaving care. [35012]

Mr. Bowis: Local authorities have a statutory duty to prepare young people for leaving care and give them continuing support. The Department has commissioned studies which will assist in determining how best an effective service can be delivered and a national inspection by our social services inspectorate of leaving care and aftercare is planned. We have also funded conferences on care leavers and work with care leavers by organisations such as First Key, Who Cares? Trust and the Royal Philanthropic Society.

NHS Organ Donor Register

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the publicity material produced by his Department supporting the national health service organ donor register is still currently being distributed; what plans there are to increase the scope of publicity for the register; and if he will make a statement. [35378]

Mr. Sackville: We are continuing to distribute a substantial volume of publicity material and registration forms in response to consistent high demand. We shall continue to promote the national health service organ donor register and to support publicity campaigns for this important initiative.

Blood Bags

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he proposes to issue to hospitals on the purchase of blood bags; and if he will make a statement. [35357]

(2) what were the reasons for the switch by the National Blood Authority to the purchase of blood bags from Tuta; and if he will investigate whether the National Blood Authority ignored warnings that there were problems with the new supply of blood bags. [35329]

Mr. Sackville: The supply of blood to hospitals, including the purchase of bags to be used for the collection of blood, is managed by the National Blood Authority.

The National Blood Authority's national contract for blood bags was intended to replace 14 regional contracts to strengthen the negotiating position with the previous monopoly supplier, and to introduce one or more alternative sources of supply with no change in product specification.

Isolated problems with Tuta bags which arose last year were resolved by the National Blood Authority as part of the normal monitoring and validation process which takes place on such a product change.

Tuta is a global concern. It supplies about 20 per cent. of the bags used in England. Its products had been used successfully in other parts of the UK for almost 30 years.

When the problem with Tuta bags became apparent, the NBA advised their use be discontinued. I understand that the National Blood Authority's investigation is continuing.

Hospital Drug Infusion

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the risks to patients of accidental overdoses from hospital drug infusion machines; and if he will make a statement; [35269]

(2) if safety guidelines issued by his Department concerning the use of hospital drug infusion machines include a requirement to keep accurate records of the machine use; [35274]

(3) if he will place in the Library a list of the incidents involving accidental overdoses from hospital drug infusion machines, including dates and locations; [35272]

(4) what action he is taking in response to the recent incidents involving accidental overdoses from hospital drug infusion machines; [35271]

(5) what safety guidelines his Department issues to health authorities and NHS trusts concerning the use of hospital drug infusion machines; and by what means he ensures that they are passed on to staff who operate the machines. [35273]

Mr. Sackville: One hundred and sixty three incidents involving overdoses from infusion systems have been reported to the Medical Devices Agency over the past five years. A list of the dates and reports of incidents will be placed in the Library.

The agency has investigated these reports and issued individual safety warnings and the recommendations for corrective action as necessary. In addition, the agency has recently issued its revised comprehensive advice to the Health Service (Device Bulletin DB 9503 May 1995). This makes recommendations, based on experience gained from investigating these reports, on safety, training, purchasing and management, including user record keeping. Copies of this document are available in the Library. Health service managers are responsible for passing on this information to their appropriate staff.

Drug Addicts and Alcoholics

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local authority areas meet the Government requirements in respect of supporting drug addicts and alcoholics; and if he will list those which do not or only in part fulfil those requirements. [35287]

Mr. Bowis: If is for each local authority to decide what services to provide for substance misusers in the light of guidance issued by the Department.

Residential Care for Older People

Mr. Sims: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the need for, and the provision of, social care in England with particular reference to an assessment of the quality of residential care for older people. [36197]

Mr. Bowis: The annual report of the chief inspector of social services provides such an assessment. It was published on 10 July and copies are available from the Library.

The report highlights the fact that people are living longer and enjoying a better quality of life. This includes those who at an early stage of life have experienced handicaps of one kind or other. I pay tribute to the growing number of carers in our society and the contribution that they make to the quality of life of those who, for one reason or another, need help and support. As the report states,

"Experience shows that social care touches the lives of most people at some time. It may be within the family or through friends or neighbours, but most of us are aware of at least someone who because of age, illness, disability or family disruption needs care and assistance in daily living.

As the demographic changes continue to have an impact it is vitally important that social care becomes not only better established but better able to work within a framework of inter-agency and multi-disciplinary planning and assessment of need".

A great deal of progress is being made by local authorities in working with the other statutory services such as health, housing and education and with a wide range of voluntary organisations and private agencies.

The Social Services Inspectorate's—SSI—"Inspection of Hospital Discharge Arrangements for Older People Being Placed in Residential or Nursing Home Care" showed great commitment by health and social services staff to implementing new assessment and care management changes. Most users were satisfied with the help they had received and placement arrangements. In addition the SSI "Inspection of Residential Care for Older People" showed that in most homes the quality of care was good to excellent and in many homes there was an emphasis on choice.

Solvent Misuse

Mr. Trotter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when solvent misuse mortality figures for 1993 will be available. [36198]

Mr. Bowis: "Trends in Death Associated with Abuse of Volatile Substances—Report No 8" has now been published by St. George's hospital medical school. Copies will be placed in the Library. It gives solvent misuse mortality data for 1993 and shows an encouraging further reduction in deaths, a fall of 13 per cent. from 84 deaths in 1992 to 73 deaths in 1993. This follows the fall of 31 per cent. from 1991 to 1992 and is a further encouraging sign that the Government's initiative in this area is bearing fruit.

Tobacco Advertising

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will publish the eighth annual report of the Committee for Monitoring Agreements on Tobacco Advertising and Sponsorship. [36210]

Mr. Sackville: The chairman of the Committee for Monitoring Agreements on Tobacco Advertising and Sponsorship has submitted the eighth report to Health Ministers and the Secretary of State for National Heritage. Copies will be placed in the Library. I am very grateful to the committee and the chairman, Sir Clive Whitmore GCB CVO, for their valuable work in monitoring the agreements. The report shows that the industry has continued to honour its commitments.

Typhoid and Malaria

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on his responsibilities to the World Health Organisation in relation to typhoid and malaria. [33287]

Mr. Bowis: The United Kingdom plays a full and active role in the work of the World Health Organisation including help to identify programmes of high priority. Although contributions to the regular programme budget are not associated with a particular programme, the United Kingdom, through the Overseas Development Administration supports WHO's tropical disease research and control of tropical diseases programmes, whose highest priority is malaria. The ODA contributed £2.90 million over the two years 1993–94 and 1994–95.

The responsibilities which fall to the Department of Health under article 19 of the international health regulations for malaria require that we provide annual information about the measures taken to keep airports and their surrounding areas free from malaria-carrying mosquitoes in both their adult and their immature stages.

Article 18 of the regulations require ships and aeroplanes to be "disinsected" if they visit a malarious area. If the port health authorities are not satisfied that such "disinsecting" has been carried out while the ship was abroad visiting another port, they may disinsect the aeroplane or ship.

There are no requirements under the international health regulations that apply to typhoid.

Single-sex Wards

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further steps he is taking to increase the number of single-sex wards; and if he will make a statement. [33336]

Mr. Sackville: It is for trusts and health authorities to decide for themselves how to use the resources available to them. However, the revised patient's charter makes it clear that patients must be told in advance if they are to be admitted to a mixed-sex ward and patients' wishes should be taken into account wherever possible.

Kernow House Nursing Home

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received regarding the Kernow house nursing home in Launceston. [35148]

Mr. Bowis: None.

Radiation

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what experiments have been conducted on civilians to assess the effects of radiation; and what information he has to the explanations given to the subjects of such research. [35157]

Mr. Bowis: The Department has funded a programme of work on radiological protection at the then United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, UKAEA, now AEA Technology, AEA, since April 1986, when funding on this programme by the Department of Energy was transferred to the Department of Health. The Department also contributes to funding of research conducted by the National Radiological Protection Board, NRPB. Under these programmes, a number of experiments have been conducted on a small number of human volunteers to provide information on the metabolism and dosimetry of radionuclides which will improve knowledge on the health risks from radiation. These experiments involve trace levels of radiation which present a very low risk from radiation. These experiments involve trace levels of radiation which present a very low risk to health. The AEA research is published in AEA's annual report on radiological protection, copies of which are available in the Library. The NRPB publishes the results of its research in a number of board publications and a copy of its annual corporate plan is in the Library. Like AEA it also publishes in scientific journals.

The studies are all approved by ethics committees which operate according to World Health Organisation guidelines, and informed consent from the volunteer is a prerequisite. The consent form cannot be signed until the nature, purpose and possible hazards of the study are explained to the volunteer. In addition, all studies using radioactivity in humans require a certificate issued by Health Ministers. The Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee advises Health Ministers on the granting of such certificates and the committee specifically considers the radiation hazards.

NHS Dentistry (Deregistration)

Mr. Tyler: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been deregistered for NHS dentistry treatment in each of the health authority areas within South West region for the past 52 weeks for which figures are available; and what those totals represent as a proportion of the total population in each case. [34856]

Mr. Malone: The information is shown in the table. Family health service authorities can help patients to find national health service dentists.

General dental service: number of adult and child patients registered at 31 May 1995 and patients deregistered from 8 July 1994 to 7 July 1995

Family health services authorities in South and West region

FHSA	Registered at 31 May 1995		Deregistered patients		Number of deregistered as percentage of population of FHSA[1]	
	Adults[1]	Children[1]	Adults[2]	Children[2]	Adults	Children
South and West	2,831,452	967,743	68,994	333	1.36	0.02
Dorset	319,913	100,473	11,881	14	2.22	0.01
Hampshire	694,695	229,716	14,412	0	1.17	0.00
Wiltshire	237,032	88,336	1,749	0	0.39	0.00
Isle of Wight	46,785	15,549	1,206	0	1.22	0.00
Avon	446,377	152,262	11,868	0	1.56	0.00

General dental service: number of adult and child patients registered at 31 May 1995 and patients deregistered from 8 July 1994 to 7 July 1995

Family health services authorities in South and West region

FHSA	Registered at 31 May 1995 Adults[1]	Registered at 31 May 1995 Children[1]	Deregistered patients Adults[2]	Deregistered patients Children[2]	Number of deregistered as percentage of population of FHSA[1] Adults	Number of deregistered as percentage of population of FHSA[1] Children
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	204,033	70,648	2,674	180	0.71	0.17
Devon	467,172	154,731	14,088	130	1.70	0.06
Gloucestershire	182,109	80,828	4,116	0	0.97	0.00
Somerset	233,336	75,200	7,000	9	1.90	0.01

[1] Population estimates at June 1993.
[2] The number of patients deregistered by dentists practising in the family health authorities shown; these are not necessarily residents of the family health services authorities.
[3] Numbers of registered with dentists practising in the family health services authorities shown.

Vehicle Emissions (Asthma)

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information Her Majesty's Government have and what assumptions are made on relations between the level of asthma and the level of vehicle emissions; and what information he has on the effect of diesel vehicle emissions. [35384]

Mr. Sackville: High levels of motor vehicle, including diesel, emissions may trigger attacks in some asthmatic people. There is no conclusive evidence that motor vehicle, including diesel, emissions cause asthma. The independent expert Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants, COMEAP, advises the Government on the health effects of air pollution. In 1993, COMEAP, at the request of the Department of Health, established an expert sub-group to undertake a major review of the association between asthma and air pollution. The committee's report is expected to be published in September 1995.

NHS Administrative Costs

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 16 December 1994, *Official Report*, columns *833-34*, if he will update the figures on NHS administrative costs. [35497]

Mr. Malone: The provisional information given in my answer of 16 December 1994, *Official Report*, columns *833-34*, in respect of 1993–94 administrative costs is now confirmed as final expenditure. Information for 1994–95 will not be available until later this year.

NHS Trust Boards (Salaries)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list by wave and region *(a)* the number of non-executive directors and *(b)* the numbers of chairs of NHS trust boards by salary band. [35504]

Mr. Malone: Details of chairmen and non-executive directors of national health service trusts, by region and wave, are shown in the tables.

	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Total
Non-executive directors						
Anglia and Oxford	15	50	95	65	—	225
North Thames	38	74	82	81	35	310
North West	49	75	65	125	10	324
Northern and Yorkshire	20	44	108	103	10	285
South and West	53	73	76	35	—	237
South Thames	35	65	90	90	20	300
Trent	15	50	73	59	15	212
West Midlands	19	18	75	119	23	254
Chairmen						
Anglia and Oxford	2	10	20	13	—	45
North Thames	8	15	16	18	6	63
North West	8	14	13	25	2	62
Northern and Yorkshire	3	9	22	21	2	57
South and West	10	15	16	8	—	49
South Thames	6	12	19	22	4	63
Trent	3	10	15	12	2	42
West Midlands	4	4	14	24	5	51

All non-executive directors of National Health Service trusts receive remuneration of £5,000 per annum. Information about the banding of chairmen of National Health Service trusts is not held centrally.

Residual Estate

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 12 July, *Official Report*, column *551*, what plans he has to dispose of parts of the residual estate of the NHS. [35501]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 July, if he will list the property and other assets not transferred to NHS trusts, indicating where possible an estimated value. [35500]

Mr. Sackville: A list of property and assets not transferred to trusts is maintained at regional level and is not available centrally. However, existing use value of

these assets is estimated at £3.48 billion from the information provided through the capital charging arrangements. Property which is declared surplus to operational requirements is sold as soon as possible. Regions implement disposal programmes to achieve the best price possible on the open market. Proceeds are used for reinvestment in the provision of healthcare.

Private Patient Income

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 December 1994, *Official Report*, column *195*, if he will update the figures on private patient income. [35493]

Mr. Sackville: The figures for 1993–94 are no longer provisional. Figures for 1994–95 are not yet available.

Gorton Medical Centre

Mr. Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, column *260*, with regard to Gorton medical centre, if he will state the latest position both with regard to the judgment of the High Court and with regard to financial assistance to improve the premises of the centre. [35241]

Mr. Malone: I refer the right hon. Member to the replies I gave him on 21 June *Official Report*, column *260* and to the reply I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Windsor and Maidenhead (Mr. Trend) on 14 July.

Clinical Negligence Claims

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 6 March, *Official Report*, columns *41–3* if he will now provide final rather than provisional figures for the costs of clinical negligence settlements by region in 1994–95. [35499]

Mr. Malone: Final figures for the period 1994–95 are not yet available.

Health Care Purchasing

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 9 December 1994, *Official Report*, column *401*, if he will update the figures on non-NHS provider spending. [35495]

Mr. Sackville: Updated information is expected to be available in December 1995.

NHS Staffing

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* administrative and clerical staff and *(c)* nursing and midwifery staff were employed in each health region in 1994. [35385]

Mr. Malone: This information is not yet available.

GP Fundholding

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 2 December 1994, *Official Report*, column *916*, if he will update the figures on general practitioner fundholding management allowances. [35490]

Mr. Malone: Information on the level of expenditure on fundholding management allowances in 1994–95 is not yet available.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 25 January, *Official Report*, columns *259–60*, on computer costs associated with general practitioner fundholding, if he will now provide comparable figures for 1994–95. [35498]

Mr. Malone: The information is shown in the table.

Spend on information technology to support GP fundholding
£000s

Region	*1994–95*
Northern and Yorkshire	2,717
Trent	2,662
Anglia and Oxford	1,894
North Thames	1,819
South Thames	2,659
South and West	1,906
West Midlands	3,129
North West	2,060
Total	18,846

Note:
Expenditure figures are estimates taken from FIS4 returns by English FHSAs.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35307]

Mr. Bowis: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

NHS Management (Salary Costs)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 13 December 1994, *Official Report*, column *616*, if he will now update the figures on NHS salary costs.

Mr. Malone: The information is shown in the table. The increase in general and senior management costs are largely a result of *(a)* the reclassification of staff from professional and administrative groups, including many senior nurses, as managers; *(b)* the devolution to trusts of areas of work formally covered by district health authorities or regional health authorities *(c)* deliberate strengthening of the management of corporate functions and clinical support.

Hospital and Community Health Services salary costs for managerial staff at 1993–94 prices

Region	*1993–94 £000s*
Northern	34,347
Yorkshire	56,232
Trent	47,527
East Anglia	25,495
N W. Thames	39,903
N E. Thames	64,104
S E. Thames	47,296
S W. Thames	49,381
Wessex	36,742
Oxford	28,029

Hospital and Community Health Services salary costs for managerial staff at 1993–94 prices

Region	1993–94 £000s
South Western	36,281
West Midlands	58,348
Mersey	32,089
North Western	46,554
SHAs	9,357
Total	611,685

Hospital and Community Health Services salary costs for administrative and clerical staff at 1993–94 prices

Region	1993–94 £000s
Northern	91,995
Yorkshire	104,807
Trent	133,838
East Anglia	57,119
N.W. Thames	133,955
N.E. Thames	150,571
S.E. Thames	144,593
S.W. Thames	101,756
Wessex	80,697
Oxford	75,455
South Western	93,430
West Midlands	158,335
Mersey	73,092
North Western	131,502
SHAs	31,439
Total	1,562,584

Hospital and Community Health Services salary costs for nursing and midwifery staff at 1993–94 prices

Region	1993–94 £000s
Northern	413,134
Yorkshire	450,659
Trent	584,876
East Anglia	245,503
N.W. Thames	423,533
N.E. Thames	531,040
S.E. Thames	453,885
S.W. Thames	387,124
Wessex	357,086
Oxford	282,770
South Western	430,190
West Midlands	617,172
Mersey	302,965
North Western	562,107
SHAs	91,968
Total	6,134,012

Source:

Annual financial returns of regional, district and special health authorities for the London postgraduate teaching hospitals, and NHS trusts.

Notes:

1. Salaries and wages costs incurred by family health services authorities and the special hospitals service authority (HQ London, Broadmoor, Ashworth and Rampton hospitals) and the UK transplant support service are excluded as corresponding costs are not identified on the same basis.

2. Managerial staff consists of general and senior managers.

3. These final figures are based upon gross costs including employers' National Insurance and superannuation contributions.

NHS Trusts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 9 December 1994, *Official Report*, column *396*, if he will update the figures on NHS trust financial performance. [35502]

Mr. Sackville: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 12 June, *Official Report*, column *359*. There are no changes to this information.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 14 December 1994, *Official Report*, columns *679–80*, if he will update the figures on NHS trust start-up costs. [35496]

Mr. Sackville: The information will be placed in the Library.

London Hospitals

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider again proposals to close St. Bartholomew's and other London hospitals. [33192]

Mr. Malone: No. The decisions made are in the best interests of patients and will ensure that London's health services meet future health needs.

Cardiac Mortality

Mrs. Ewing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the cardiac mortality rate for each year between 1989 and the most recent year; and if he will provide a breakdown by *(a)* region and *(b)* health authority area in England. [33326]

Mr. Bowis *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The information is shown in the table:

Death rates from cardiac mortality (ICD[1] 390–429) per 100,000 population

Regional health authorities	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Northern	398.3	388.7	381.4	374.8	384.3
Yorkshire	378.7	367.0	355.7	343.3	360.3
Trent	364.0	345.3	349.1	341.7	378.2
East Anglian	318.2	321.2	327.4	318.8	334.4
North West Thames	279.3	270.0	277.8	262.1	273.1
North East Thames	309.8	297.6	297.5	286.1	303.1
South East Thames	345.5	340.3	345.6	328.7	347.6
South West Thames	336.4	331.5	334.6	316.9	332.2
Wessex	340.1	339.3	337.3	331.4	345.7
Oxford	255.9	245.2	252.0	243.4	257.7
South Western	370.8	362.9	362.9	350.8	372.8
West Midlands	343.9	333.6	333.6	325.4	347.8
Mersey	380.5	362.8	362.5	352.7	371.3
North Western	403.0	391.6	382.6	379.9	390.9

[1] International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision.

Smoking

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage restrictions on smoking in public areas frequented by children. [35021]

Mr. Clappison: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's code of practice on smoking in public places, which provides practical guidance to owners and managers of public places on implementing smoking policies, advises that smoking should be prohibited in all public places frequented by children and other young people.

Community Nurses

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* health visitors, *(b)* district nurses, *(c)* community psychiatric nurses and *(d)* school nurses were employed in each region of England on 30 September 1993, and for the latest date available, expressed as whole-time equivalents and actual numbers; and if he will list the same information for student health visitors and student district nurses. [33250]

Mr. Bowis *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The information relating to the number and whole-time equivalent number of health visitors, district nurses, community psychiatric nurses and school nurses employed in each region of England on 30 September 1993 is shown in the tables. This is the latest available information.

For the number of student health visitors and district nurses in each region in 1993, I refer the right hon. Member to the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting annual report for 1993–94, copies of which are available in the Library.

NHS hospital and community health services health visitors by England regions at 30 September 1993 (excluding agency staff) whole time equivalents and numbers (head count)

Region	Numbers	Whole time equivalents
Northern	800	690
Yorkshire	1,000	840
Trent	1,110	950
East Anglia	400	340
North West Thames	910	750
North East Thames	870	770
South East Thames	770	640
South West Thames	740	590
Wessex	790	640
Oxford	780	660
South Western	800	660
West Midlands	1,240	1,050
Mersey	590	500
North Western	1,260	1,120
England	12,060	10,190

Source:

PD (Stats) B Non-Medical Workforce Census, 30 September each year.

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest ten, WTE and total numbers.

2. Totals may not equal the sum of the components due to rounding.

3. Health visitors excludes senior nurses 1–5. Included are senior nurses 6–8 in health visiting, health visitors, HV fieldwork teachers, school health visitors, TB visitors with HV certificates, bank health visitors, dual/triple posts (HV/DN/Mid) and clinical grades F to I in health visiting.

NHS hospital and community health services district nurses by England regions at 30 September 1993 (excluding agency staff) whole time equivalents and numbers (head count)

Region	Numbers	Whole time equivalents
Northern	1,010	880
Yorkshire	730	630
Trent	950	850
East Anglia	350	320
North West Thames	720	620
North East Thames	750	680
South East Thames	740	620
South West Thames	740	610
Wessex	780	660
Oxford	720	600
South Western	670	590
West Midlands	1,190	1,020
Mersey	540	480
North Western	1,000	890
SHAs and others	[1] —	[1] —
England	10,890	9,460

Source:

PD (Stats) B Non-Medical Workforce Census, 30 September each year.

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest ten, WTEs and total numbers.

2. Totals may not equal the sum of the components due to rounding.

3. [1] denotes figures less than five.

4. District nurses excludes senior nurses 1–5. Included are senior nurses 6–8 in district nursing, district nurse practical work teachers, holders of dual post (DN/Midwife) bank district nurses and clinical grades C to I in district nursing.

NHS hospital and community health services nurses working in psychiatric areas in the community by England regions at 30 September 1993 (excluding agency staff) whole time equivalents and numbers (head count)

Region	Numbers	Whole time equivalents
Northern	380	350
Yorkshire	400	380
Trent	340	330
East Anglia	170	160
North West Thames	260	260
North East Thames	360	350
South East Thames	280	280
South West Thames	260	250
Wessex	300	280
Oxford	200	190
South Western	420	390
West Midlands	430	420
Mersey	240	240
North Western	450	440
SHAs and others	10	10
England	4,510	4,320

Source:

PD (Stats) B Non-Medical Workforce Census, 30 September each year.

Notes:

1. All figures are rounded to the nearest ten, WTEs and total numbers.

2. Totals may not equal the sum of the components due to rounding.

3. Community psychiatric nursing figures include qualified, unqualified and 'other' nursing staff working within the community psychiatric nursing area of work.

NHS hospital and community health services school nurses by England regions at 30 September 1993 (excluding agency staff) whole time equivalents and numbers (head count)

Region	Numbers	Whole time equivalents
Northern	220	170
Yorkshire	240	180
Trent	400	290
East Anglia	130	100
North West Thames	240	180
North East Thames	280	210
South East Thames	180	140
South West Thames	190	130
Wessex	150	110
Oxford	200	130
South Western	230	130
West Midlands	410	300
Mersey	210	150
North Western	350	250
England	3,420	2,470

Source:
PD (Stats) B Non-Medical Workforce Census, 30 September each year.

Notes:
1. All figures are rounded to the nearest ten, WTEsm and total numbers.
2. Totals may not equal the sum of the components due to rounding.

Listeriosis

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many babies died or had serious illnesses due to listeriosis from July 1985 to the date of the Department's warning about the risk posed to the foetus and new-born babies from listeriosis resulting from the consumption of certain foods. [34309]

Mr. Sackville *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* It is not possible to derive a single underlying cause of stillbirth or neonatal death from the stillbirth or death certificate. However, between 1 July 1985 and 31 January 1989, there were 11 stillbirths and 23 infant deaths, babies dying under one year of age, in England and Wales where listeriosis was mentioned on the certificate[1] Information on serious illnesses associated with listeriosis is not available centrally.

[1] Since 1 January 1986 in England and Wales, a different certificate has been in use for stillbirths and neonatal deaths (babies dying under 28 days). In these cases the certifier is able to record both main fetal and main maternal conditions leading to the death without giving precedence to one particular condition. The certifier may also record other fetal and maternal conditions which contributed to the death without directly leading to it. Owing to these changes in certification it is not possible to derive a single underlying cause of stillbirth or neonatal death.

Non-United Kingdom Staff

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital doctors, *(b)* nurses and midwives, *(c)* general practitioners and *(d)* managers currently working in the NHS are from (i) European Union countries other than than the United Kingdom and (ii) non-EU countries. [34784]

Mr. Malone *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The available information is shown in the tables.

Hospital doctors and general practitioners (unrestricted principals) country of birth: as at 30 September 1993 and 1 April 1993 respectively[1]

	Hospital doctors[2]	General practitioners
EU countries other than UK	1,930	90
Non EU countries	14,500	5,750
Total	16,430	5,840

Note:
[1] Latest available data on country of birth for General Practitioners.
[2] Whole time equivalents. Wte data are not available for general practitioners.
All figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Training (Doctors and Nurses)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses have been in training in each of the last five years. [34785]

Mr. Malone *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The available information on doctors is shown in the table. For the number of nurses who have been in training in each of the past five years, I refer the hon. Member to the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting annual reports for each year from 1989–90, copies of which are available in the Library.

Doctors in training by grade England 30 September to 1 October whole time equivalent (Wte)

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Doctors in training	22,590	23,290	23,970	24,340	25,080	n/a
Senior registrar	3,110	3,400	3,540	3,650	3,770	n/a
Registrar	5,950	6,040	6,140	6,190	6,320	n/a
Senior house officer	10,580	10,830	11,230	11,470	11,900	n/a
House officer	2,940	3,010	3,050	3,040	3,080	n/a
GP trainees	1,740	1,560	1,640	1,610	1,530	1,450

Notes:
1. All figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Hospital doctor trainees as at 30 September; GP trainees as at 1 October.
3. Wte data are not available for GP trainees. Answer is given as numbers.

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Lord President of the Council if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the past 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as "www.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34671]

Mr. Newton: The Privy Council Office does not use the Internet and, hence, the server, and has no plans to do so.

DEFENCE

Naval Stores Depots (Closure)

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the closure of Royal Naval victualling depot, Wrangaton, and the transfer of the Royal Naval clothing storage task. [36268]

Mr. Soames: I announced decisions to implement the findings of the "Front Line First" studies as they affected future naval stores support to the Royal Navy on 14 February 1995, *Official Report*, column *611–12*. These included the closure of RNVD Wrangaton by 31 March 1997.

The Defence Clothing and Textile Agency, DCTA, purchases and controls stock management of all service clothing. Financial savings would have arisen from the collocation of Navy clothing with Army clothing at Bicester under DCTA control due to the ability to rationalise stockholdings and by sharing the same IT system. However, at the time of consultation we have not been able to identify sufficient spare storage capacity at Bicester to collocate Royal Navy clothing with the Army bulk stocks already held there. It has subsequently been confirmed that sufficient storage capacity will now be available.

The proposal will now be subject to consultation. If it is confirmed, it would be implemented by 31 March 1996, which is now the planned closure date for RNVD Wrangaton.

Gulf War Veterans

Mrs. Currie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he has received the independent medical audit report from the Royal College of Physicians of the assessments on Gulf war veterans; if he intends to publish it; and if he will make a statement. [34917]

Mr. Soames: The Royal College of Physicians' independent medical audit report to the Surgeon General on my Department's Gulf war medical assessment programme has been received and its recommendations are currently being considered. It is intended that the report will be made public shortly and I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

Contracts (Privatisation)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts and for what total sum were awarded by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries, and (i) Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries, for privatisation, market testing and management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [34104]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Ministry of Defence has contracts with a number of the companies listed. However, details of the contracts and the values are a matter of commercial confidentiality between the Ministry of Defence and the companies concerned. Records held centrally by the Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive does not include details of any contracts placed by the various agencies, nor do they indicate the precise nature of the individual contracts. To obtain the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Napalm

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the current policy on the production and use of napalm; on what date his Department adopted this policy; and what had been the previous policy with regard to the production and use of napalm [35085]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The UK holds no stocks of napalm, the use of which is restricted by protocol III of the 1981 United Nations weaponry convention.

Contamination

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to ensure that his Department *(a)* discloses all knowledge of contamination and *(b)* takes appropriate measures to tackle contamination before disposing of surplus military sites. [35352]

Mr. Soames: My Department is already subject to the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 1992, which provide freedom of access to, and the dissemination of, environmental information it holds. Decontamination of my Department's land is undertaken where there is a significant risk to health and safety or the environment, or where land is being sold. In the latter case, decontamination work is limited, generally, to the removal of ordnance and other contaminants such as chemical warfare agents, radioactive and microbiological materials, in respect of which a civilian contractor could not be expected to have the appropriate expertise.

Military Sites (Sales)

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many surplus military sites are currently on the market in Hampshire; how many he expects to place on the market in the next five years; and if he will name them. [35353]

Mr. Soames: The information requested is not immediately available. My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the house.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the past 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as www.open.gov.uk and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34673]

Mr. Soames: In the past 12 months, a MOD world wide web—(WWW)—server has been set up at the Internet address www.mod.uk with the specific aim of disseminating information about the Department. Liaison with the CCTA has ensured that the MOD home page on the server is accessible via the Government service WWW server at www.open.gov.uk.

Information made available to date has included summary biographies and pictures of MOD Ministers, recruitment information for the individual services and MOD press releases. In addition, the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency has a number of WWW pages accessible from the MOD home page which publicises topical items from the defence research programme.

It is planned in the next 12 months to increase the number of MOD WWW pages to make further information available to the public, one example being the coverage of major defence policy speeches.

Dundrennan

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the most recent environmental and radiological surveys undertaken at the Dundrennan test range. [35159]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I shall write to the hon. Member.

Nevada Nuclear Test Site (Payments)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what payments have been made to date to the United States Government to cover land remediation and the clear-up of toxic and radioactive contamination at the Nevada nuclear test site, arising from the use of the facility to test British nuclear warheads. [35155]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Charges negotiated in respect of the small proportion of tests conducted in the US involving UK-owned devices have included a site overhead element which, in its turn, has allowed for relevant waste disposal costs. The latter element has not, however, been separately identified.

Chemical Weapons (Storage)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information he has as to the present environmental status of sites in Wales used to store surplus chemical weapons before disposal at sea. [35164]

Mr. Soames: RAF Llandwrog was the only site in Wales to store surplus chemical weapons before disposal at sea. After the disposal operation in 1956, the site was returned to private ownership following the issue of the standard clearance certificate confirming that it was free from explosive or chemical contamination.

Gulf War Veterans (Blood Donations)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what restrictions now exist on the use of blood donated by British Gulf war veterans; and if he will make a statement on the original reason for implementing restrictions. [35163]

Mr. Soames: No restrictions have ever been imposed on the use of blood donated by British Gulf war veterans.

Nuclear Weapons (A1)

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions oncoming traffic was stopped by Ministry of Defence police to facilitate the passage of the nuclear weapons convoy on the A1 road between Musselburgh and Morpeth on 10 July; what is his assessment of the rise of road traffic accidents on that section of single carriageway road; and if he will seek to avoid routing such conveys on that part of the A1 road during peak or holiday traffic periods in future. [34428]

Mr. Soames: It is not our practice to discuss the details of particular military movements. However, as a matter of long-standing policy, the routing of individual nuclear weapon convoys is always agreed in advance with local civil police forces. Traffic management is undertaken as necessary by the Ministry of Defence police officers who form part of such a convoy. The incidence of road traffic accidents is a matter for my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Scotland.

Chemical and Biological Weapons

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what were the reasons for extending the memorandum of understanding on chemical and biological defence between the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada in *(a)* November 1994 and *(b)* October 1984. [35567]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The memorandum of understanding—MOU—on chemical and biological defence between the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada was extended in October 1984 and November 1994 in order to ensure that the current activities conducted under the MOU could continue.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, column *369*, when the Committee on the Safety of Human Experiments exercised its right to veto studies, and why. [35613]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Although the committee had the right of veto it was more importantly concerned with the modification of protocols and maintaining the register of the work carried out. For these reasons it is difficult from the records available to identify specific occasions on which this right was exercised.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, column *370*, if he will list the current members of the independent ethics committee; and if he will consider placing in the Library copies of the minutes of this committee with the matters of commercial and defence sensitivity removed. [35614]

Mr. Arbuthnot: With respect to listing the names of the current members of the ethics committee, I shall write to the hon Member. Concerning the placing of copies of the minutes of this committee with matters of commercial and defence sensitivity removed, such a document would be meaningless and I see no reason therefore to do so.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, column *369*, what is the function of the defence nuclear biological and chemical centre at Winterbourne Gunner; when it was set up; and which agency controls it. [35612]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The original unit, which now forms the defence nuclear biological and chemical centre—DNBCC—at Winterbourne Gunner was set up in 1916. The DNBCC's function is to be the focal point for tri-service NBC defence matters, including training of selected personnel of all three services and foreign and Commonwealth forces in NBC defence measures on land. It also carries out staff studies and trials on all aspects of NBC defence and on equipment and procedures. The centre is sponsored by the inspector general training on behalf of the armed services.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, column *279*, which sites have been visited by officials formulating the draft declaration; and which Departments other than the Ministry of Defence are helping to formulate this declaration. [35608]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Officials formulating the draft declaration have visited a number of sites. They include MOS Randle, CDRE Sutton Oak, CDE Nancecuke, MOS Valley, MOS Rocksavage, MOS Hillhouse, MOS Springfields, Barnham Heath, Norton Disney, Lord's Bridge and West Cottingwith. It is not anticipated that all of these sites will need to be declared under the terms of the chemical weapons convention. Officials from the DTI, the FCO and MAFF are involved in formulating this declaration.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what were the conclusions and recommendations of the meetings held in *(a)* May 1969 and *(b)* April 1990 of the sub-group E on chemical and biological defence of the technical co-operation programme. [35571]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I will write to the hon. Member.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how Britain's decision to abandon production of chemical weapons contributed towards the signing of the chemical weapons convention; for what reasons Britain decided to abandon production of chemical weapons; and if this decision to abandon chemical weapons was taken in consultation with the United States of America. [35572]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The United Kingdom's decision in the 1950's to abandon its retaliatory offensive chemical weapons production capability and stocks of CW munitions was taken after reassessment of the most effective deterrents to aggression in keeping with national financial capabilities. The decision was not taken in consultation with the United States of America.

The UK has long supported the implementation of international agreements on the control, destruction and the eventual abolition of these weapons, as is now offered by the chemical weapons convention, but we also accepted that in the absence of such an agreement, some retaliatory capability within NATO was a necessary deterrent.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, column *368*, when the combined therapy auto-injector to combat the post-attack symptoms of nerve agent poisoning was issued for use by the armed forces; what antidotes can be used in the auto-injector and what is the effect of these antidotes; when the studies to develop the auto-injector took place with service volunteers; how many service volunteers took part in these studies; and what these studies entailed. [35611]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The current combined therapy auto-injector entered into service between January and July 1990. The injector contains Atropine, which directly counteracts the effects of excess Ach, nerve messenger; Pralidoxine Mesylate to reactivate inhibited acetylcholinesterase and Avizafone which acts as an anti-convulsant.

Studies to develop this therapy have been conducted over many years, and to provide details of all the studies would involve disproportionate cost.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what ways the work of sub-group E on chemical and biological defence of the technical co-operation programme has promoted the successful collaboration in chemical and biological defence research between the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada and Australia; how many meetings of this sub-group have been held since 1993; where they were held; which countries took part; and who represented the British Government. [35604]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The technical co-operation programme—TTCP—provides a means of acquainting the participating countries with each others' defence research and development programmes so that each national programme may be planned to avoid unnecessary duplication. It promotes action to identify and close gaps in the collective technology base. It also assures each country of the best technical advice available for their Governments and military forces.

Sub-group E covers all aspects of chemical and biological defence including, *inter alia*, detection, survivability and medical treatment. It meets once a year to review programmes and exchange information and to oversee a number of collaborative research programmes.

Three meetings have been held since 1993; Washington, 1993; Toronto, 1994; Melbourne 1995. Countries taking part were the United States of America, Canada, Australia and the UK. The UK representative was the Director (Physical Sciences) CBDE, now Director of the Chemical and Biological Defence Sector of CBDE.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what facilities exist underground at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down; when each of these facilities was built; and what are the functions of each of these facilities. [35562]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence concerning the underground facilities belonging to the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes CBDE as one of its Divisions.

A small number of sampling chambers were constructed underground at CBDE between the First and Second World Wars. These were used in trials to determine the dispersion of chemical agents. They have now fallen into disuse.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, column *276*, if he will list the titles and subject matter of each of the 17 unclassified papers in the Porton technical papers series; and what was the name of the series of papers which replaced the Porton technical papers after they were closed. [35609]

(2) how many scientific papers in the series called Nancekuke reports were produced by the Chemical Defence Establishment at Nancekuke since 1965; when this series started and finished; and how many of them are unclassified. [35564]

(3) pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report*, columns *716–17*, on what dates staff from the biological division and the chemistry and decontamination division of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment published the results of their research in the scientific journals named. [35618]

(4) pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report*, column *709*, what was the conclusion of the research work on the nerve agent GB at Nancekuke to study the impurities and by-products found in the GB product; when this conclusion was reached; which by-products were studied; and when the results of this research were exchanged with the United States of America, Canada and Australia. [35621]

(5) how many scientific papers in the series called Porton notes were produced by the Chemical Warfare Establishment at Porton Down since 1965; when this series started and finished; and how many of them are unclassified. [35565]

(6) what research has been carried out on the nerve agent GF at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down since the closure of the nerve agent plant at Nancekuke; what quantity of the nerve agent GF has been used in this research at Porton Down; what was the aim of the research; when the results of this research were exchanged with other countries; and under which defence agreement the results were shared. [35615]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from Elizabeth Reeve to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

I am writing to let you know that because of the research required I shall not be able to reply to a number of your priority written questions within the normal timescale. The questions concerned are as follows:

> Pursuant to answer of 16 March (Col 716–7), the dates on which CBDE staff published the results of their work;
>
> How many "Porton Notes" series papers were produced since 1965;
>
> How many papers in the Nancecuke Reports series were produced by CBDE since 1965;
>
> Titles & subject matter of "Portion Technical Papers" & name of series which replaced "Portion Technical Papers";
>
> Research on nerve agent GF;
>
> Conclusion of work on nerve agent GB at Nancekuke.

I will of course let you have replies as soon as possible. I am sorry if this causes any inconvenience.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, column *279*, when the studies with service volunteers with nerve agent GB were conducted; how many service volunteers were involved; what was the purpose of the studies; what was the conclusion of the studies; and if the amount of GB used in these studies needs to be approved at ministerial level. [35619]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from Elizabeth Reeve to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking for further details of the research carried out with the nerve agent GB involving Serving Volunteers has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

Various nerve agent studies involving the use of Service Volunteers have taken place at CBDE since the late 1940's and have involved some 300 volunteers. The most recent series of studies which were completed in 1989 were carried out in order to ascertain the effects of exposure to low levels GB. The conclusions of the studies have resulted in enhanced protective measures for UK service personnel. The details of specific experiments are not subject to ministerial approval.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, column *278*, what was the conclusion of the studies with mustard gas to determine the effectiveness of decontamination procedures and protective measures; what was the highest amount of mustard gas applied in small drops in patch tests; if this amount needs to be approved at ministerial level; and in what year the last study involving mustard gas and service volunteers was conducted. [35620]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence concerning the studies conducted with mustard agent using Service Volunteers has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

The studies referred to in my reply of 5 July, which were carried out over a number of years formed an integral part of the research programme at CBDE. I am unable to discuss the conclusions of this work in detail but can say that it has led to the introduction of more effective protective and decontamination measures for the UK Armed Forces. The amount of mustard applied in patch tests was determined after sensitivity tests had been carried out on the volunteer. This sensitivity test involved the application of one drop of a dilute solution of mustard to the forearm. Mustard agent had been used in studies at the research establishments at Porton Down since the First World War and we are unable to determine if Ministerial approval was sought before the work commenced. No studies involving the use of mustard agent with Service Volunteers have been carried out since 1979.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what tests and studies have been carried out by

the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, on CS gas foam; what was the purpose and conclusions of these tests with the foam; when the tests were carried out with the foam; and if the tests involved service volunteers. [35573]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingston, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence concerning the use of CS foam in studies carried out by the Chemical and Biological Establishment (CBDE) has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes CBDE as one of its Divisions.

The Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment has not carried out any studies on CS foam.

I hope this information is helpful.

Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (Scientific Journals)

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times staff in *(a)* the medical division and *(b)* the defence microbiology division of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, published the results of their work in scientific and other journals in the past two years; on what dates they were published; and in which journals they were published. [35566]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking how many times staff in the medical and defence microbiology divisions of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment have published the results of their work in scientific journals has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes CBDE as one of its Divisions.

Staff from these two Divisions of CBDE have had a number of papers published in scientific journals in 1993 and 1994. A list of the journals and volume of numbers appears below:

Journals	
Applied and Environmental Microbiology	60(11), 1994
British Journal of Surgery	81(2), 81(3), 1994
FEMS Symposium No. 73 Proceedings	1994, 3 papers
FEMS-Microbiology Letters	110(1), 111(2-3), 1993:116(2), 1994
Government Reports-Announcement Index	14, 1994
Human Experimental Toxicology	12(1), 12(1), 12(3), 1993
Injury	24(9), 1993
Infection and Immunity	61(9), 1993
International Journal of Experimental Pathology	74(2), 1993
Journal of Immunological methods	159(1-2), 1993
Journal of Applied Toxicology	14(6), 1994
Journal of Trauma	36(3), 1994
Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps	139(3), 1993
Journal of Virological Methods	44(2-3), 1993
Lancet	342(8879), 1993
Letters in Applied Microbiology	18(4), 19(3), 19(4), 1994
Microbiological Reviews	57(2), 1993
Microbial Pathogenesis	16(4), 1994
Microbiologica	16(2), 1993; 17(2), 1994
NATO ASI Series Series A	245, 1993
Origins of Life and Evolution of the Biosphere	23(1), 1993
Vaccine	11(12), 1993; 12(15), 1994

It is possible that other results have been published, but it has not been possible to identify these from central records in the time available to answer your question.

I hope this information is helpful.

Nuclear Weapon Tests

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is Her Majesty's Government's policy on whether a comprehensive test ban treaty should prohibit any underground explosive testing which produces a fission yield; [35417]

(2) what is his Department's policy on a low threshold test ban treaty as an alternative to a comprehensive test ban treaty; [35418]

(3) if it is Her Majesty's Government's policy that some further explosive nuclear testing should be permitted under the terms of a comprehensive test ban treaty;. [35425]

(4) if it is Her Majesty's Government's policy to retain the ability to conduct further underground nuclear tests after it has signed a comprehensive test ban treaty; [35431]

(5) what is his Department's assessment of whether a comprehensive test ban treaty that included a provision for small-scale testing would be compatible with the commitments made by the United Kingdom at the non-proliferation treaty extension conference. [35423]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Our aim is to establish an effective and verifiable comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty — CTBT—commanding universal adherence as soon as practicable. We have noted the statement in the nuclear non- proliferation treaty review conference document "Declaration on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear and Non-Proliferation and Disarmament" calling for the conclusion of negotiations on a CTBT by the end of 1996, and for the nuclear weapon states to exercise restraint until that time. The United Kingdom has no plans at present to carry out any nuclear weapon tests. However, we have made it clear that the CTBT must not prohibit those activities required to fulfil our responsibility to maintain the safety and reliability of our nuclear stockpile.

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which of the Anglo-US joint working groups have met to discuss nuclear testing issues during the past three months; and what were the names and rank of those officials from his Department involved; [35419]

(2) what representations his Department has made to officials of the United States Government concerning a resumption of nuclear testing prior to negotiation of a comprehensive test ban treaty; [35428]

(3) what discussions officials from his Department have had with officials from the United States Government concerning a United Kingdom requirement to conduct further underground nuclear tests prior to signing a comprehensive test ban treaty; [35426]

(4) what discussions representatives from the Atomic Weapons Establishment have had with officials from the United States Government concerning nuclear testing issues in the last three months. [35427]

Mr. Arbuthnot: We have no plans to conduct further underground nuclear tests prior to the introduction of a comprehensive test ban treaty. Officials of this Department and the Atomic Weapons Establishment hold regular discussions with United States authorities on a wide range of nuclear issues. Including matters relating to nuclear testing.

LSD Experiments

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the regard and small change experiments involving service volunteers and LSD took place. [35106]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Dr. David Clark, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking where the Regard and Small Change studies took place has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

There has been no study named Regard involving Service Volunteers and LSD carried out by CBDE. There was, however, a study with LSD called Recount. That and study Small Change took place on the trials range at CBDE Porton Down.

I hope this information is helpful.

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of reports and laboratory data outlining the results of experiments in respect of the projects *(a)* Moneybags, *(b)* Recount and *(c)* Small Change carried out at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment Porton Down on service personnel; and if he will make a statement. [34852]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Dr. David Clark, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking if he will place the reports of the studies called Moneybags, Small Change and Recount in the House of Commons Library has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

The use of LSD in studies with Service Volunteers has been public knowledge for decades and a film of Operation Moneybags was shown to the media and public during the Open Days held in 1969. Newspapers on 12 June 1969 carried detailed stories on the LSD trials and, more recently, replies to parliamentary questions have provided a great deal of information. The reports of the actual studies themselves are, however, well over 10 years old. It is not clear at the moment, and in the time available, whether the contents of them can now be released. I will look into this and write to you again.

I hope this information is helpful.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if service volunteers taking part in experiments at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment Porton Down called *(a)* Moneybags, *(b)* Recount and *(c)* Small Change were specifically told that they were to be given LSD; and in what terms they were advised of the possible (i) long-term and (ii) short-term effects of LSD. [34853]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Dr. David Clark, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking if Service Volunteers involved in the studies using LSD were informed that they would be exposed to LSD and given indications of its long and short term effects has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

The purpose of the Moneybags, Small Change and Recount trials was to identify the effects of the drug LSD on behaviour in military operations. The Volunteers were briefed prior to the study as to the nature of the drug which would be administered. They were also informed that some of them would be given a placebo rather than the active drug so as to provide controls for the investigation. Prior to the study the Volunteers were not told specifically which individuals would have the drug rather than the placebo as this would have negated the validity of the study. After the exercise was completed the individuals were told whether they had had the drug or placebo administered.

The short term effects of the administered LSD were not suggested to the Volunteers prior to their exposure because of the risk that their response would be modified to meet the expected effects. No long term effects for single or low doses of LSD had been identified in clinical medicine and there were no possible effects to advise on.

I hope this information is helpful.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long the service volunteers involved in the Moneybags experiments who were given 200 micrograms of LSD were affected by the dose. [34854]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Dr. David Clark, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking how long Service Volunteers involved in the Moneybags experiments were affected by the dose of LSD they had been exposed to has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now

includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

All the Volunteers who were exposed to LSD had fully recovered from the effects of the drug within 24 hours of their exposure.

I hope this information is helpful.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who decided the amounts of LSD given to volunteers at the Chemical and Biological Establishments at Porton Down; if permission at ministerial level was required for the amounts and the experiments; and if he will make a statement. [35105]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Dr. David Clark, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking who decided on the amount of LSD given to volunteers and if permission at Ministerial level was required to conduct this work has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

Prior to beginning any programmes of work with Service Volunteers a review of the proposed study is conducted to assess the military requirement and the acceptability of the procedures. Since 1991 this reviewing role has been fulfilled by an Independent Ethics Committee but prior to this date a Committee of medical practitioners from the then Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down, known as the Committee on the Safety of Human Experiments (COSHE), carried out this function. The protocols approved by this Committee were then considered by the ethical sub-group of the Medical Committee of the Defence Scientific Advisory Council which included independent experts.

The studies involving the use of LSD with Service Volunteers began in the early 1960's and were completed in 1968. The studies would have been reviewed by COSHE. They would also have been approved by the then Director of the Establishment who had overall responsibility for the running of the Establishment. At this distance in time we are unable to say whether Ministers were involved in the detailed decisions on dosage levels but consider this unlikely.

I am sorry that I could not be more helpful.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what experiments involving LSD and service volunteers other than Moneybags, Recount and Small Change were carried out at the Chemical and Biological Establishment at Porton Down. [35107]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Dr. David Clark, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Parliamentary Question asking the Secretary of State for Defence what experiments involving LSD and Service Volunteers, other than Moneybags, Recount and Small Change, were carried out at CBDE has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

In addition to the studies mentioned above a small number of Volunteers were exposed to LSD under medical supervision in the establishment medical facilities. These studies, which have no generic name, were carried out between 1962 and 1968.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when was the last time that medical checks were carried out on the service volunteers who took part in tests and studies involving LSD at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down, to assess whether the tests had any long-term effect on the mental or physical health of the volunteers. [35101]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Dr. David Clark, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking when was the last time that service personnel involved in studies with LSD were medically checked to assess whether there were any long term effects on the mental and physical health of the volunteers has been passed to me to reply as Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

The Service Volunteers were medically screened for their suitability prior to their participation in the studies involving LSD. All Volunteers are medically examined on completion of their attendance at CBDE and this included those who participated in the LSD studies. As published clinical studies had not identified long term effects with single, low doses of LSD, it was not therefore considered appropriate to recall Volunteers for further assessment.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mutual Defence Assistance Programme

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when Britain and the United States of America set up the mutual defence assistance programme; what was the scope and aim of the programme; why it was set up; when it ended; and which branches of his Department were involved in the programme. [35574]

Mr. Soames: The United States and United Kingdom concluded a mutual defence assistance agreement on 27 January 1950, which provided for either Government to make available to the other equipment, materials or other military assistance designed to promote the integrated defence of the north Atlantic area and to facilitate the development of defence plans under the North Atlantic treaty. The agreement, presented to Parliament as Cmd 7894, was made as part of the US Government's action at that time to provide military aid to Europe, in accordance with the US Military Defence Assistance Act signed by President Truman on 6 October 1949. The agreement remains in force. It is not possible at this time to identify particular branches of the Ministry of Defence that may have been involved in the programme.

Service Volunteers Programme

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what arrangements have existed to warn service personnel who took part in tests and studies in the service volunteers programme at the chemical warfare establishment at Porton Down since 1965 of

the risks to their health, both in the short-term and long-term, of the experiments; when these arrangements were put in place; and if they have conformed to the Nuremberg code and Helsinki declarations on medical research on humans. [35570]

(2) what arrangements have been made by the chemical warfare establishment at Porton Down to obtain the voluntary informed consent of service personnel who have participated in tests and studies in the service volunteers programme since 1965; when these arrangements were set up; and what steps he has taken to ascertain whether they conformed to the Nuremberg code and Helsinki declarations on medical research on humans. [35563]

Mr. Soames: These matters are for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Questions to the Secretary of State for Defence asking about the arrangements since 1965 for warning Service Volunteers about the nature of the research in which they participate and what steps were taken to obtain their consent, have been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions. This reply covers both questions.

All work with Service Volunteers since 1991 has required the approval of the Independent Ethics Committee before the study can begin. Protocols submitted for review by this Committee include a lay statement which is read to the volunteers by a military officer prior to them participating in the investigation. The lay statement explains the purpose, nature and any discomfort which may be experienced. Further briefing by the investigators carrying out the study is also carried out and the volunteers can withdraw from the study at any time without requiring to give a reason. Prior to the creation of the Independent Ethics Committee all studies involving the use of Service Volunteers were subject to review by the Committee on the Safety of Human Experiments (COSHE). Similar methods were used to acquaint the volunteers with the nature of the investigation in which they participated.

All work involving the use of Service Volunteers since 1965 has conformed to the Nuremberg code and Helsinki Declaration on the use of humans in medical research.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report*, column *714–15*, what the studies to investigate the physiological load imposed by wearing the mark 4 NBC suit in various climatic conditions entailed; what exercises and tasks were performed by service volunteers; where these studies took place; what chemicals were used in the studies; and what was the conclusion of the studies. [35606]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence concerning the physiological studies on the Mk1V NBC suit has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisons.

Physiological studies on the MkIV NBC suit conducted at CBDE involve performing various levels of exercise under different conditions of humidity and ambient temperature. The nature of the exercise includes walking on a treadmill or lifting loads of varying weights. All such studies are carried out with constant physiological monitoring and under medical supervision. Volunteers are encouraged to drink water and are provided with food while participating in the investigations. No chemical agents have been used in these studies. The conclusion of these studies have led to recommendations on the level of workload and its duration for personnel wearing protective clothing under different climatic conditions.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns *367–68*, if the policy of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, is such that service personnel who took part in the service volunteers programme at the establishment can have copies of the original laboratory reports and data held by the establishment on the experiments in which they participated; and if he will make a statement; [35610]

(2) what records are held by the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, on service personnel who take part in tests and studies in the service volunteers' programme; what details are kept in these records; and if these records are kept in a computer or on paper. [35569]

Mr. Soames: These matters are for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Questions to the Secretary of State for Defence asking about the records of Service Volunteer studies held by the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) and also if they could be released to the individuals involved has been passed to me to reply as the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency which now includes CBDE as one of its Divisions. I am replying to both questions in this letter.

It is currently the practice to keep records of the personal details of the volunteer, including name, rank, service number, unit, date of birth and age at the time of the study, as part of a paper folder raised for each volunteer. This folder also includes full details of the volunteer's medical history, the results of the pre and post study medical examinations and details of any medical condition arising co-incidental to the study. In order to facilitate administration the name, rank and service number of volunteers is held on computer but not the medical details contained in an individual's folder.

My answer to your previous question about records, dated 5 July, covered CBDE's long standing policy concerning the release of information held on Service Volunteers.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what tests and studies have been carried out since 1965 at the Chemical Warfare Establishment at Porton Down on service volunteers with Lewisite; what was the aim of these experiments; how the vesicant was administered to volunteers; what was the conclusion of these experiments; when these tests were carried out; how many service volunteers were involved in these tests and studies; and where and what dates the results of these tests were published in open literature. [35568]

(2) what tests and studies have been carried out since 1965 at the Chemical Warfare Establishment at Porton Down on service volunteers with compound cyclohexyl methylphosponefluoridate; what was the purpose of these tests; how the compound was administered to volunteers; what were the conclusions of these experiments; when these tests were carried out; how many service volunteers were involved in these experiments; and where and on what dates the results of these tests were published in open literature. [35617]

Mr. Soames: These matters are for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking what studies with Service Volunteers have been carried out since 1965 with the chemical warfare agents Lewisite and cyclohexyl methylphosphonofluoridate (GF) have been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

There have been no studies involving Service Volunteers using either Lewisite or GF since 1965.

I hope this information is helpful.

Cost Sharing Agreement

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 16 March, *Official Report*, column *723*, how much money was owed by the United States Government under the bilateral cost-sharing agreement on *(a)* 31 March 1994 and *(b)* 31 March 1995; what percentage of the annual expenditure under this agreement this figure represented on each date, excluding administration costs; and whether, under this agreement, the United States Government refund the cost of construction and maintenance carried out at their request and pay 7.5 per cent. of the works expenditure as a contribution towards the administration costs of the Ministry of Defence, Defence Works Service (United States Forces). [35616]

Mr. Soames: Bills with the US Government for payment amounted to £5,400,000 on 31 March 1994 and £3,600,000 on 31 March 1995 representing 6.5 per cent. and 3.6 per cent. respectively on the annual expenditure on US works under the cost sharing agreement. The US Government refund the cost of construction and maintenance carried out at its request by Ministry of Defence, Defence Works Service (USF) and pays 7.5 per cent. of the works expenditure as a contribution towards the adminstration costs of hte MOD, Defence Works Service (USF).

Safety Audits

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, column *274*, if he will place in the Library copies of the 21 safety audits with the classified information removed. [35607]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State of Defence asking if copies of the safety Aduits with the classified information removed will be placed in the Library has been passed on to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions.

The Safety Audits of CBDE by the Ministry of Defence are valuable because they deal in a frank and detailed manner with a range of complex safety issues. Publication of the reports would be unhelpful, not only because the removal of classified information would make the documents unbalanced and possibly unintelligible, but also because the knowledge of publication would inevitably affect to the content of reports. For these reasons I am not prepared to publish even edited Audits in the way you suggest.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful.

Ballistic Missiles

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 3 February, *Official Report*, column *888*, in which month the contract from the Directorate of Science (Ballistic Missile Defence) is due to end; whether the further option of one year on the contract is to be taken up; how much this option is worth; how many staff at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment are working on the contract and what their work entails; and how the contract is progressing. [35603]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. I have therefore asked him to reply.

Letter form John Chisholm to Mr. Ken Livingstone, dated 18 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking for further information concerning the contract between the Directorate of Science (Ballistic Missile Defence) and the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes CBDE as one of its Divisions.

The then Director General of CBDE wrote to you on this matter on 3 February. The option of a further year on the contract has been taken up by the US and the contract end date is now May 1996. The total value of the work (including the further option year) is $11.2 million. Thirty five staff at CBDE are employed for some of their time on this contract. The nature of the work is as previously described, namely technological research into the defeat of attacks by ballistic missiles with chemical or biological warheads. The programme of work is progressing well. I hope this information is helpful.

Small Arms (Sales)

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 10 July, *Official Report*, column *468*, what were the total receipts in each of the last three years received from the sale of surplus small arms, handguns and rifles. [35436]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Receipts from the sale of surplus small arms, handguns and rifles in the last three years were:

1992–93: £142,500

1993–94: £168,250

1994–95: £200,260

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received that surplus small arms sold by his Department have come into the possession of criminals. [35439]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I have been informed by the Chief Constable of the Ministry of Defence Police that the possession of surplus small arms by criminals, after they had been sold by the Ministry of Defence, is being investigated by the South Yorkshire police.

Nuclear Warheads (Reliability)

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is his Department's assessment on whether the safety and reliability of Britain's nuclear warheads can be maintained only through a continuation of testing that produces a fission yield. [35420]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications for the development of new nuclear warheads of the United Kingdom signing a comprehensive test ban treaty which prohibited any further nuclear testing which produced a fission yield; and if he will make a statement. [35421]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I have nothing to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 10 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *469*.

Small Arms (Disposal)

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 10 July, *Official Report*, column *469*, if he will specify the cost in each of the last three years for the destruction of small arms. [35437]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The annual cost, in each of the past three years, for the destruction of small arms is in the order of £90,000.

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 10 July, *Official Report*, column *468*, what assessment he has made of his Department's disposal methods of surplus small arms; and if he will make a statement. [35438]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Current policy and procedures guard against unauthorised disposal. Ministry of Defence police investigations are under way to ascertain whether these controls have been properly observed.

Nuclear Weapon Tests

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what is his Department's assessment of whether a comprehensive test ban treaty that prohibits nuclear tests below 1 kiloton would be verifiable; [35424]

(2) what is his Department's assessment of the minimum yield of a nuclear test that could be adequately verified under a comprehensive test ban treaty. [35430]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The ad hoc committee on a nuclear test ban of the conference of disarmament is examining a narrow range of options for an international monitoring system which would be capable of providing assurance to the states parties to a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty that any explosion of 1 kiloton or more would be detected, identified and located. There is general agreement that it would be impractical to undertake global monitoring below this level.

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his Department's current definition of what constitutes a nuclear weapon test. [35422]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This term has hitherto been applied to nuclear weapon tests of the sort that the UK has previously carried out at the Nevada underground test site.

Green Minister

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 11 July, *Official Report*, column *530*, who the green Minister is within his Department. [35435]

Mr. Soames: My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence is the green Minister in my Department.

Engineering Bases and Workshops

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the locations of his Department's engineering bases and workshops in each of the three services. [35358]

Mr. Soames: I shall write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Official Residences (Costs)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the amount spent on *(a)* maintenance and building works, *(b)* furniture and fittings, *(c)* domestic staff costs and *(d)* entertaining and hospitality for each official service residence for 1994–95. [34432]

Mr. Soames: The information requested could not be collated within the time available. My Department is, however, in the process of gathering this information for internal reporting purposes and for work that is in hand as a result of recommendations contained in Sir Peter Cazalet's report into representational entertainment in the armed forces. I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as the information is available.

Royal Ordnance (Memorandum of Understanding)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the memorandum of understanding agreed by his Department with Royal Ordnance in December 1994. [35340]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The memorandum of understanding between the Secretary of State for Defence and the chairman of Royal Ordnance plc was published in the Comptroller and Auditor General's report "Ministry of Defence: Incorporation of the Royal Ordnance Factories" published in April 1985 (HC 343).

Royal Ordnance (Iran)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the information and reports received by his Department concerning the shipment of goods from Royal Ordnance to Iran between 1984 and 1988. [35337]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Such information, if it existed and if it pointed to potentially illegal activity, would have been

passed to Her Majesty's Customs and Excise as the enforcement authority.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department received reports from Swedish customs of the outcome of their investigation into shipments to Iran which mentioned Royal Ordnance; and what action it took. [35336]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No arrangements exist for the provision of information by overseas customs authorities to the Ministry of Defence. Any such information would be provided to HM Customs and Excise.

Supplies to Iran

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports his Department received concerning the shipping of goods to Iran in September 1985 by MV Sea Trader, June 1986 by MS Jotun and in August 1986 by MV Gritt Clipper IV; and if he will make a statement. [35343]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department is unable to trace any such reports.

Royal Ordnance

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date Royal Ordnance joined the Federation of European Explosives Manufacturers; which other companies were in membership at the same time; and what contracts and with which countries were entered into under the auspices of the federation. [35344]

Mr. Arbuthnot: This information is not available from within the Ministry of Defence.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many shares his Department held in Royal Ordnance from 1 January 1985 to 1 January 1987; and what percentage this was of the total share issue. [35341]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Royal Ordnance plc was incorporated on 2 January 1985, with an authorised share capital of £60 million, in shares of £1, all issued. Until its privatisation in April 1987, all 60 million shares were owned by the Secretary of State for Defence.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what trading agreements were entered into by Royal Ordnance from January 1985 to January 1987 which required the agreement of the Secretary of State; and what were the countries involved, the subject matter and precise dates on which such agreements were given. [35339]

Mr. Arbuthnot: I am not aware of any trading arrangements which required the agreement of the Secretary of State for Defence under the terms of the memorandum of understanding between the Secretary of State and the Chairman of Royal Ordnance plc.

Private Soldier (Cost)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the average annual cost, excluding wages and wage on-costs, of maintaining a private in the army. [34810]

Mr. Soames: Based on current capitation rates, the average annual cost, excluding wages and wages on-costs, of maintaining a private in the Army in £14,019.

Radiation Tests on Humans

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what investigations his Department is making into research relating to radiation tests on humans. [34476]

Mr. Soames: This subject has been investigated and no evidence has been found of any Ministry of Defence involvement in unethical radiation experiments on humans.

Cadets (Education)

Mr Hicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officer cadets were educated in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sectors of education; and what were the corresponding figures for non-commissioned ranks for the last three years for which figures are available for (i) male and (ii) female recruits into the Royal Navy. [34215]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from A. L. Chilton to Mr. Robert Hicks, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Defence has asked the Chief Executive of the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency to reply to your Parliamentary Question, about the number of Naval officer cadets and ratings, expressed in terms of male and female recruits, who were educated in both the private and public sectors of education for the last three years for which figures are available. I am replying in the absence of the Chief Executive.

I must advise you that, whilst the Directorate of Naval Recruiting records basic details of the school, college or university history of all officer and rating recruits, it does not record whether these institutions are based in the private or public sector. I regret, therefore, that it is not possible to provide you with this information.

Employment

Mr. Hicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the number of service personnel and civilians employed at RN College, Dartmouth and HMS Raleigh, Torpoint, for the last three years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement on their contribution to their local economies. [34216]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from A. D. Ferguson to Mr. Robert Hicks, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Defence has asked the Chief Executive of the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of Service personnel and civilians employed at the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth and at HMS Raleigh, and the economic contribution that these establishments make to their respective local economies. I am replying in the absence of the Chief Executive.

The number of Service and civilian employees at the establishments for the last three years is as follows:

	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95
BRNC Dartmouth			
Service personnel	n/a	120	119
MOD civilian personnel	n/a	186	165.5
HMS Raleigh			
Service personnel	600	565	553
MOD civilian personnel	154	122	120

It is impossible to accurately quantify the contribution of Naval shore training establishments to their local economies. Both establishments provide local employment and the spending power of establishment personnel and students contributes to the local economy and that of the surrounding area. In the case of BRNC in particular, the College is the major employer for the isolated town of Dartmouth and also provides opportunities for trade to local businesses and shops. This is especially important during winter months as the town's micro-economy is principally based on tourism.

Recruits

Mr. Hicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the projected intake of officer cadets and ratings into the Royal Navy for each of the next three years. [34217]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from A. L. Chilton to Mr. Robert Hicks, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Defence has asked the Chief Executive of the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency to reply to your Parliamentary Question concerning the projected intake of officer cadets and ratings into the Royal Navy for each of the next three years. I am replying in the absence of the Chief Executive.

The projected target figures for the recruitment of RN officers and ratings for each of the next three years, are shown below. It should be recognised that these figures are projections only and as such are subject to periodic revision in order to reflect variations in outflow and requirement.

	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99
RN officers	252	337	349
Ratings	2,500	2,700	2,800

RN College, Dartmouth

Mr. Hicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the cost to public funds, excluding capital projects, of RN college, Dartmouth; and if he will list the nature and number of the courses provided, the number of officers, ratings and students involved in these courses and the average annual occupancy of the resident accommodation at the college for each of the past three years for which figures are available. [34218]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from A. D. Ferguson to Mr. Robert Hicks, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Defence has asked the Chief Executive of the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the cost to public funds, excluding capital projects, of Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC), Dartmouth and the nature and number of the courses provided, the number of officers, ratings and students involved in these courses and the average annual occupancy of the resident accommodation at the college for each of the past three years for which figures are available. I am replying in the absence of the Chief Executive.

The Cash Costs of BRNC Dartmouth, excluding Capital Costs, Sea Training costs and VAT, for the Financial Years' 1993/94 to 1995/96 is as follows:

1993–94: £11.8M

1994–95: £11.2M

1995–96: £11.3M

BRNC Dartmouth provides 22 Courses, instructed by 28 RN Officers, 28 Civilian Lecturers and 17 RN Ratings (excluding Support Staff). Information relating to Students is now only available for 1994/95 and 1995/96. This data, together with the list of College courses, is as follows:

	Student Intake	
	1994–95	1995–96
Naval General Training Course	127	125
SD Officers Pre-Qualifying Course	26	49
Naval Studies Course	100	39
Flight Academic Course	36	34
International Young Officers' Course	58	42
International Sub Lieutenant's Course	16	18
Modular Graduates Course	55	40
Consolidation Course	[1](21)	0
Short Introductory Course	29	22
Naval Aircrew Training Course	24	4
Royal Naval Reserve Course	25	29
RM Young Officers' Acquaint Course	162	68
Careers Officers Course	0	0
University Royal Naval Unit Course	48	105
Potential Officer Course	82	130
Combined Cadets/Sea Cadets	375	242
Undergraduates' Language Course	15	58
Undergraduates' Academic Course	13	2
Undergraduates' Strategic Studies Course	12	8
Surgeon S/Lt Naval Introductory Course	0	19
Bursars' Acquaint Course	27	21
Engineering Sponsorship Scheme Acquaint	0	0

[1] Included in NGT Course.

The average annual occupancy of the resident accommodation at the college since 1992/93 is as follows:

1992–93: 99.7% of capacity

1993–94: 91% of capacity

1994–95: 68% of capacity

In the context of student throughput, you will also wish to be aware that the Agency is developing initiatives with private industry and academic institutions to market the unallocated irreducible training capacity that exists at the shore training establishments which is caused by fluctuating recruiting levels.

HMS Raleigh, Torpoint

Mr. Hicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the cost to public funds, excluding capital projects, of HMS Raleigh, Torpoint; and if he will list the nature and number of the courses provided, the number of officers, ratings and students involved in these courses and the average annual occupancy of the resident

accommodation at the college for each of the past three years for which figures are available. [34219]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from A. D. Ferguson to Mr. Robert Hicks, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Defence has asked the Chief Executive of the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the cost to public funds, excluding capital projects, of HMS Raleigh and the nature and number of the courses provided, the number of officers, ratings and students involved in these courses and the average annual occupancy of the resident accommodation at the college for each of the past three years for which figures are available. I am replying on behalf of the Chief Executive.

The Cash Cost to public funds, excluding capital projects, of HMS Raleigh for the last three years is as follows:

1992–93: £16.8M

1993–94: £18.5M

1994–95: £19.5M

HMS Raleigh's Course Catalogue currently lists some 140 courses that range in duration from 2 days to 13 weeks. The nature of the courses provided falls into the following categories:

Part 1 and New Entry Courses

Nuclear, Ballistic and Chemical Defence Courses

Seamanship Courses

Supply Specialisation Courses

The total number of establishment personnel employed overall in support of the training task for the last three years was:

HMS Raleigh	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Service personnel	600	565	553
MOD civilian personnel	154	122	120

Total student throughput expressed in Student-days for the years 1992–93 to 1994–95 was as follows:

1992–93: 28,896

1993–94: 27,456

1994–95: 25,084

Records concerning occupation of resident accommodation are only retained for two years. It is not possible, therefore, to provide figures for 1992–93. The average daily occupancy of the resident accommodation at HMS RALEIGH over the past two years was:

1993–94: 526

1994–95: 470

In the context of student throughput, you will wish to be aware that the Naval Recruiting and Training Agency is developing initiatives with private industry and academic institutions to market the unallocated irreducible training capacity that exists at the shore training establishments caused by fluctuating recruiting levels.

Contaminated Land

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his Department's policy on contaminated land. [34654]

Mr. Soames: My Department has instituted a land quality assessment procedure for all sites being considered or allocated for disposal. In addition, steps are being taken to prioritise the rest of the defence estate for future assessment work. Decontamination of my Department's land is undertaken where there is a significant risk to health and safety or the environment, or where land is being sold. In the latter case, decontamination work is generally limited to the removal of ordnance and other contaminants such as chemical warfare agents, radioactive and microbiological materials in respect of which a civilian contractor could not be expected to have the appropriate expertise.

Submarine Allowance

Ms Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the current level of submarine allowance; what changes he plans to make; and if he will make a statement. [34016]

Mr. Soames: Submarine pay is paid to assist in the recruitment and retention of suitable naval personnel into the submarine service. The levels of submarine pay for 1995–96 are between £8.41 and £13.54 per day, depending on rank and responsibilities, for active submarine service. An additional £5.59 or £8.21 per day is paid to senior rate nuclear propulsion watchkeepers. A reserve band of between £8.05 and £10.72 per day is paid to submariners who have a continuing liability for submarine service after three years in a shore appointment. As I announced on 26 June, *Official Report*, column *503*, my Department is studying the recommendations of the independent review of service career and manpower structures and terms of service, which included a recommendation that a number of additional pay items, including submarine pay, should be assimilated into the basic pay structure. I shall keep the House informed of progress.

Naval Vessels (Running Costs)

Mr. Trotter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what are the latest available annual running costs for each of the classes of vessel currently in service with the Royal Navy. [34232]

Mr. Soames: The 1994–95 figures for the average annual running costs of each class of vessel currently in service with the Royal Navy are given below. These are an average of the annual operating costs of each individual vessel within a class, based on those vessels' activities over the preceding six years.

Class of Vessel	*£ million*
Resolution Class Submarine	21
Vanguard Class	[2]—
Swiftsure Class Submarine	25
Trafalgar Class Submarine	19.5
Invincible Class Carrier	35
Landing Platform Docks	17
Type 22 Frigate (Batch 1)	17
Type 22 Frigate (Batch 2)	19.5
Type 22 Frigate (Batch 3)	15
Type 23 Frigate	15.5
Type 42 Destroyer (Batch 1)	17
Type 42 Destroyer (Batch 2)	17.5
Type 42 Destroyer (Batch 3)	17
Hunt Class MCMV	3.5
Sandown Class MCMV	2.5
Castle Class Offshore Patrol Vessel	3
Island Class Offshore Patrol Vessel	3
Hong Kong Patrol Craft	1
River Class Patrol Craft	1
Coastal Training Craft	0.5
Royal Yacht	10

Class of Vessel	[1]£ million
Ice Patrol Ship	6.5
Ocean Survey Vessels	6
Coastal Survey Vessels	3

Notes:
[1] Figures rounded to nearest half million.
[2] Figures not available for VANGUARD Class.

Nimrod (Loss)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is his assessment of the impact on United Kingdom defence capability of the recent loss of a Nimrod R.1 aircraft; what plans he has to replace the aircraft; and what is the estimated cost. [35644]

Mr. Soames: The Nimrod R aircraft which was lost in the Moray firth on 16 May was one of a fleet of three aircraft which provide the UK with an airborne reconnaissance capability, the details of which are classified. The potential loss of capability resulting from the crash is being managed by adjusting the maintenance programme of the remaining two aircraft. Whilst there will therefore be no immediate effect on the United Kingdom defence capability, it is important that the aircraft is replaced as soon as possible. Our plans are to retrieve a reserve Nimrod airframe from storage and have it converted to the reconnaissance role. Contractual negotiations for this work are under way, therefore details of costs are at present commercially sensitive.

Nuclear Submarine Decommissioning (Workshop)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from his Department, and of what grades, participated in the NATO advanced research workshop on nuclear submarine decommissioning held in Moscow from 19 to 22 June; and if he will make a statement on the impact of the workshop on the development of his policy on storage and disposal of decommissioned nuclear submarines. [35629]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No Ministry of Defence personnel attended this NATO workshop. Our policy remains that decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines are stored safely afloat at a suitable berth, pending eventual disposal.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35308]

Mr. Soames: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

Rapid Reaction Force (Insurance)

Mr. Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements he has made for insurance facilities for members of the armed forces currently serving with the rapid reaction force in Bosnia. [34811]

Mr. Soames: In addition to the cover given to all personnel as members of the armed forces pension scheme, the following insurance facilities are available to service men serving with the rapid reaction force in Bosnia. Personnel are able to enrol in PAX+ personal accident insurance in theatre. Also available are the forces safeguard life insurance scheme and membership of the relevant dependants fund appropriate to their particular branch of the services; these are available in theatre. Prior to embarcation or deployment, and throughout their service career, all personnel are thoroughly briefed on the availability and advisability of taking out life, personal accident and kit cover.

Mr. Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements he has made for insurance facilities for the families of members of the armed forces currently serving with the rapid reaction force in Bosnia. [34812]

Mr. Soames: All members of the armed forces, including those serving with the rapid reaction force in Bosnia, are able to obtain personal accident and optional life insurance cover for themselves and their families by enrolling in the PAX+ personal accident insurance scheme. It is a matter for individual service personnel as to whether they take out family insurance and, if so what company, policy and level of cover they choose.

Mr. Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what facilities for insurance arrangements, through PAX+ insurance he is making available to members of the armed forces currently serving with the rapid reaction force in Bosnia. [34813]

Mr. Soames: Like other members of the armed force,s those serving with the paid reaction force in Bosnia can obtain insurance within the PAX+ scheme. The facility to enrol in this scheme is available in theatre. PAX+ provides cover 365 days a year, 24 hours a day whether on or off duty. This scheme, started in 1989, gives a range of benefits covering both death and disability as a result of an accident with the level of cover dependent on the number of units purchased by the service person. PAX+ was set up specifically for service personnel and gives cover for military service up to and including general war. The MOD will refund a proportion of a life premium loading for hazardous duties.

Uranium Projectiles (Eskmeals and Kirkcudbirght)

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received the environmental impact assessment on the trials of depleted uranium projectiles at Eskmeals and Kirkcudbright announced on 1 July 1993. [35819]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The report was received by my officials from the contractor, W. S. Atkins Environment, on 20 January 1995. I have today arranged for a copy of the full report, together with the MOD's response to its findings and recommendations, to be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Defence Evaluation and Research Agency

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the formation of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency; and what targets he has set for the Agency for 1995–96. [35820]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, was launched as a trading fund on 1 April 1995, and is an enlargement of the former Defence Research Agency, DRA. It remains a defence agency headed by a chief executive who derives his authority from, and is directly accountable to, the Secretary of State for Defence. Its aim is to provide independent, high quality, efficient and cost effective advice and support for its customers, primarily within the MOD. DERA personnel remain civil servants.

The DERA comprises all the MOD's major non-nuclear evaluation and research organisations, in particular those establishments listed below, together with the existing DRA organisation and certain smaller scientific units:

The Director General of Test and Evaluation

The Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down

The Defence Operational Analysis Centre, West Byfleet

The Centre for Human Sciences

The British Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre

The DERA is structured as four operating divisions, supported by a number of service sectors:

The Centre for Defence Analysis

The Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment

The Defence Research Agency

The Defence Test and Evaluation Organisation

The Secretary of State for Defence invited John Chisholm to continue as chief executive of the enlarged agency until his present contract expires in 1996.

The targets set for the DERA in 1995–96 are as follows:

(a) To meet profit and cash targets consistent with an average 6 per cent. return in capital employment over a period of three years, the target for 1995–96 being 4.7 per cent.

(b) To achieve divisional utilisation of 68 per cent. in DRA, 49 per cent. in DTEO, 61 per cent. in CBDE, 67 per cent. in CDA and 57 per cent. for the DERA overall.

(c) To achieve on time divisional milestone delivery of 85 per cent. in DRA, 80 per cent. in DTEO and 90 per cent. in CBDE and CDA.

(d) From the December DRA 1994 customer survey baseline, while maintaining an overall level of performance at 22 per cent. above average, to improve quality and project management from 4.8 per cent. and 12 per cent. above average to 15 per cent. above average and to conduct similar surveys in DTEO, CDA and CBDE.

(e) To improve scientific quality in the DRA, as measured by the external assessment of the MOD's corporate research programme, by 2 per cent. and to produce similar measures for CBDE and CDA.

(f) To meet by 31 March 1996 all the 1995–96 rationalisation project milestones.

(g) To achieve a non-MOD income of £98 million in 1995–96.

(h) To achieve formal quality certification to ISO 9000 for an additional five DRA sectors and two DERA service sectors by 31 March 1996.

(i) To have implemented the reward management review project processes in DRA and CDA by 31 October 1995.

(j) To complete by 30 September 1995, a strategic review of all DERA business and project support functions making an assessment of the scope to introduce private capital, outsourcing and market testing and to publish this as part of the corporate plan.

BMARC

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to his answers of 4 April, *Official Report*, column *1097*, and 19 June, if he will list the companies other than Astra/BMARC to which the documents discovered on 16 June referred; [30225]

(2) on what date he was informed by his Department's police that further documents have been found relating to BMARC and Astra plc; whether these documents included sales documentation of arms exports by BMARC and Astra; and if he will make a statement. [30049]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 22 June 1995]:* The documents and files were seized by the Ministry of Defence police, MDP, pursuant to powers given by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. In the case of Marcel (1992 Ch. 225), the Court of Appeal decided that where documents were seized by the police under those powers, the police owed a private law duty of confidence to the owners of the documents and that this private law duty had the effect that no further disclosure of the documents by the police was permitted unless the disclosure was for a purpose contemplated by the 1984 Act, or was necessary in the public interest. The Department has received legal advice that the same principles apply to a description of the documents by categories. Having regard to that advice I do not propose to list or describe the documents seized by the Ministry of Defence police.

A re-sort of the seized property store, expedited by the deputy chief constable of the MOD police, has accounted for all schedules of documents seized from the Astra group of companies by the MDP during the course of corruption investigations involving those companies. All Astra company documents have been returned to the liquidators; other documents belonging to other owners have been or are shortly to be returned to their rightful owners. No papers have been or are being destroyed by MOD police.

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will list under convenient headings the categories of documents and files taken by the staff of his Department from Astra plc or any of its subsidiaries between 1 January 1989 and 31 December 1991; and which of them have been *(a)* retained and *(b)* destroyed; [30101]

(2) what information he has on the whereabouts of documents relating to the Paveway bomb, as referred to in the minutes of BMARC on 2 November 1988. [30113]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* The documents and files were seized by the Ministry of Defence police, MDP, pursuant to powers given by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. In the case of Marcel (1992 Ch. 225), the Court of Appeal decided that where documents were seized by the police under those powers, the police owed a private law duty of confidence to the owners of the documents, and that this private law duty had the effect that no further disclosure of the documents by the police was permitted unless the disclosure was for a purpose contemplated by the 1984 Act, or was necessary in the public interest. The Department has received legal advice that the same principles apply to a description of the documents by

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Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those occasions on which Ministers were in contact with Ministry of Defence police concerning the affairs of Astra plc between 1989 and 1991, naming the Minister in each case. [30109]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* So far as is known, there are none.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who was the person directly responsible for losing the BMARC documents which were found on Saturday 17 June; and who rediscovered them. [30610]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 29 June 1995]:* An inquiry has been initiated by the Deputy Chief Constable of the Ministry of Defence Police into the separation by MDP in its property store of documents relating to its investigations into the Astra group of companies. I shall write to the hon. Member when the report is finalised.

Ministry of Defence Police

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Minister in his Department had responsibility for the Ministry of Defence police on 27 January 1993. [30104]

Mr. Soames *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* The Ministry of Defence police is an independent police force with full constabulary powers operating under the Ministry of Defence Police Act 1987. The responsibility of the Secretary of State is limited to his general superintendence of MDP under the Act and through the mechanisms of the MOD police committee, delegated to the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, who on 27 January 1993 was my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Sir A. Hamilton).

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Training

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what were the results from the training for working leavers survey for the period September 1993 to August 1994 or most recent 12 months for each training and enterprise council area in England and Wales and each local enterprise company area in Scotland broken down to show the number and proportion of leavers who *(a)* had been entered for a vocational qualification, *(b)* had obtained a vocational qualification, *(c)* had failed to obtain a vocational qualification and *(d)* were awaiting their results; what was the number and proportion of training for work leavers who six months after leaving were (i) in a full-time job with their work experience employer, (ii) in a full-time job with another employer, (iii) employed in their own business, (iv) in a part-time job, (v) in voluntary work, (vi) on another Government training programme, (vii) on a full-time education or training course, (viii) unemployed and claiming benefit, (ix) unemployed and not claiming benefit, (x) in a jobclub and (xi) doing something else; what was the number and proportion of training for work leavers who had completed the training agreed in their initial action plan; and if she will make a statement; [34054]

(2) what were the results of the YT leavers survey for the period September 1993 to August 1994 or the most recent 12 months for each TEC area in England and Wales and each LEC area in Scotland broken down to show the number and proportion of YT leavers who *(a)* were in full-time work with the same employer, *(b)* were in full-time work with a different employer, *(c)* were in part-time work, *(d)* were on a full-time course at a college/training centre, *(e)* were on another YT scheme, *(f)* were doing something else, *(g)* were unemployed and *(h)* had obtained a vocational qualification; what was (i) the number of questionnaires issued, (ii) the usable percentage response rate and (iii) the percentage of respondents who were early leavers; and if she will make a statement; [34057]

(3) what were the results from the training for work leavers survey on the number and level of NVQs and SVQs gained by people leaving training for work for the period September 1993 to August 1994 or the most recent 12 months, for each region and for Great Britain as a whole, for all leavers, and by ethnic group, disability and gender; and if she will make a statement; [34059]

(4) what were the results of the YT leavers survey for the period September 1993 to August 1994 or the most recent 12 months for each TEC area in England and Wales and each LEC area in Scotland broken down to show the number and proportion of YT leavers who *(a)* were in full-time work with the same employer, *(b)* were in full-time work with a different employer, *(c)* were in part-time work, *(d)* were on a full-time course at a college/training centre, *(e)* were on another YT scheme, *(f)* were doing something else, *(g)* were unemployed and *(h)* had obtained a vocational qualification; if she will list (i) the number of questionnaires issued, (ii) the usable percentage response rate; and (iii) the percentage of respondents who were early leavers; and if she will make a statement; [34055]

(5) what were the results from the youth training leavers survey on the number and level of NVQs and SVQs gained by people leaving training for work for the period September 1993 to August 1994 or the most recent 12 months, for each region and for Great Britain as a whole, for all leavers, and by ethnic group, disability and gender; and if she will make a statement; [34058]

(6) what were the results of the training for work leavers survey for each region and for Great Britain as a whole, for the period between September 1993 and August 1994 or the most recent 12 months for all leavers and separately for male and female, for each ethnic group, and for those with a disability or health problem, the number and proportion of training for work leavers who *(a)* had been entered for a vocational qualification, *(b)* had obtained a vocational qualification, *(c)* had failed to obtain a vocational qualification or *(d)* were awaiting their

results; what was the number and proportion of training for work leavers who six months after leaving were (i) in a full-time job with their work experience employer, (ii) in a full-time job with another employer, (iii) employed in their own business, (iv) in a part-time job, (v) in voluntary work, (vi) on another Government training programme, (vii) on a full-time education or training course, (viii) unemployed and claiming benefit, (x) in a jobclub and (xi) doing something else; what was the number and proportion of training for work leavers who had completed the training agreed in their initial action plan; and if she will make a statement. [34056]

Mr. Paice: As this information is contained in a large number of tables, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my reply in the Library.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will make a statement on the work her Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about her Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server know as "www. open. gov. uk" and her plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34675]

Mr. Robin Squire: The then Department for Education created a site on the Government world web server on 24 April 1995 with the launch of "Superhighways for Education" consultation paper on broadband communications. The site had a brief note on the aims and objectives of the then Department for Education. It will shortly carry departmental press notices and the 1994 schools and colleges performance tables. The jobseekers, parents, further education and higher education charters are available on the citizen's charter unit site. In addition, an announcement on the launch of Socrates, the European Community's new education programme, was placed with a UK educational Internet newsgroup. The Department's policy for future use and business potential is under consideration following the recent merger of the Departments for Education and Employment.

Employment Service

Mr. Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will make a statement on the work of the Employment Service in 1994–95. [36080]

Mrs. Gillian Shephard: I am pleased to announce that the Employment Service achieved excellent results in 1994–95. It placed over 1.87 million unemployed people into work, of whom 29.7 per cent. had been out of work for six months or more. It also exceeded its targets for placing people with disabilities and people in inner cities.

The ES has exceeded all but one of its targets this year giving unemployed people a record level of help. Its results in placing people into work are excellent and it has made steady improvements over the last five years.

The targets agreed for 1995–96 will enable the ES to build on its exceptional results last year, and help yet more unemployed people while preparing for the introduction of jobseeker's allowance.

These targets include placing 1.9 million unemployed people into jobs, of whom at least 560,500 should be people unemployed for six months or more; and 76,000 should be people with disabilities—the highest total yet.

Exclusions (Lincolnshire Schools)

Sir Kenneth Carlisle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what are the numbers of exclusions from Lincolnshire schools for the most recent year for which data are available, and if she will give the figures of the two previous years. [34830]

Mr. Robin Squire: This information is not held centrally.

Nursery Education

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1) what steps she is taking to ensure that her plans are listed in her press statement to de-regulate standards in respect of child:adult ratios, premises and equipment are consistent with her policy of maintaining standards as found within the current requirements of the Children Act 1989 and other relevant Acts; [35559]

(2) which of the four bodies listed in her answer of 14 June, *Official Report*, column *520*, as favouring introduction of a voucher scheme for pre-school education, advocated or had consented to her plans for de-regulation as described in her oral statement on 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517–19; [35556]

(3) by what means she expects to publicise the de-regulated or lower standards of provision for nursery education and play group provision she announced in her oral statement of 6 July. [35558]

Mr. Robin Squire: My right hon. Friend and the Secretary of State for Health are jointly consulting on whether the existing Children Act guidance on child; adult ratios, premises and equipment remains appropriate for institutions registered to exchange vouchers for pre-school education.

In addition, my right hon. Friends and the Secretary of State for Wales announced on 14 July their intention to consult on a new set of school premises regulations. Those regulations apply to all maintained schools, including maintained nursery schools. They will continue to do so.

All essential health and safety requirements in the current Children Act guidance and school premises regulations will be retained.

None of the written responses to the consultation advocated deregulation, but most of them were received before deregulation became an issue for debate. A number of informal requests were made to deregulate existing requirements on child:adult ratios premises and equipment, planning, and publication of statutory proposals to establish nursery places at maintained schools.

My right hon Friend plans to publish a consultation document on quality assurance shortly.

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment by what means the relevant proportion of voucher value is assigned to four-year-olds

attending local authority infant schools to be deducted from the value of parental purchasing power arising from her proposed scheme for financial assistance for four-year-olds. [35557]

Mr. Squire: The parents or guardians of all four-year-olds will receive a voucher worth around £1,100 with which to purchase three terms of good-quality pre-school education before compulsory school age if they wish.

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what consultations she initiated with the 74 bodies listed in her answer to the question of the hon. Member for the City of Durham (Mr. Steinberg), of 7 February, *Official Report*, columns *145-47*, in respect of her plan announced on 6 July for pre-school provision. [35576]

Mr. Squire: The head of the official task force on under-fives wrote to the majority of the bodies listed on the day of the announcement, requesting their views.

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral answer to the hon. Member for Stratford-on-Avon (Mr. Howarth), of 6 July, *Official Report*, column 522, if the value of the proposed education vouchers will be subject to assessment of income support and family credit. [35605]

Mr. Squire: No.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517-19, on pre-school education, what is the average *(a)* pupil: adult ratio and *(b)* pupil: qualified adult ratio in (i) reception classes in primary schools, (ii) nursery classes in primary schools, (iii) nursery schools classes and (iv) playgroups. [34110]

Mr. Squire: The available information is shown in the table.

Pupil: staff ratios in maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in maintained primary schools in England

January 1994

	Teaching staff[1]	*All adult staff*[2]
Nursery schools	19.4	8.8
Nursery classes	26.8	11.7

[1] Includes all qualified teaching staff.
[2] Includes all teaching staff and nursery assistants.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517–19, what changes are planned in the training of primary and early years' teachers to take account of the expansion of pre-school provision for all four-year-olds. [35510]

Mr. Squire: My right hon. Friend has no plans to revise the criteria for primary ITT courses set out in DFE circular 14/93.

We are currently reviewing targets for intakes to initial teacher training for 1996–97 onwards, and the Teacher Training Agency will take account of the Government's plans for the education of under-fives in carrying out its responsibilities for initial and in-service teacher training.

Teacher Training

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many places in teacher training for primary and early years' teachers were available in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1992, *(c)* 1994 and *(d)* 1995; and what plans she has for an expansion in places for primary and early years' teachers, following her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517–19. [35511]

Mr. Robin Squire: The number of places for primary teachers in England for the years requested is as follows:

	1990	*1992*	*1994*	*1995*
Intake target	11,313	12,078	12,950	12,115
Actual intake	13,155	16,658	13,713	—

The targets did not distinguish between courses specialising in early years—three to seven—and other primary ITT courses.

We are currently considering whether the targets for intakes into initial teacher training courses given to the Teacher Training Agency for 1996–97 onwards need to be revised to take account of new information and policy developments. The agency will take the Government's plans for the education of under-fives into account when allocating student numbers from 1996–97 onwards.

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what provision is made in the training of primary and early-years teachers for the study of early child development. [35434]

Mr. Squire: The competences expected of newly-qualified primary teachers are set out in DFE circular 14/93. It is for course providers to determine course content, in order to ensure that newly qualified teachers have the ability to teach effectively and to secure effective learning.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what legislation she plans to introduce; and if she will make a statement. [35309]

Mrs. Gillian Shephard: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

Postgraduate Students

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what is the number of state-funded postgraduate students in the United Kingdom as a proportion of the entire United Kingdom higher education student population; and if she will make a statement. [34965]

Mr. Forth: In the academic year 1992–93, the latest year for which information is available, there were 44,500 postgraduate award holders in the United Kingdom—3 per cent. of all home students in higher education and 25 per cent. of the postgraduate population.

In addition, an unknown number of postgraduate students will have received state support from other sources including access funds and student loans—where studying for a postgraduate certificate in education.

Youth Service

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what plans she has to safeguard the funding of the youth service in the next Budget. [34455]

Mr. Paice: The local authority financial settlement for 1996–97 is currently under consideration. It will be for individual authorities to decide how to fund different parts of their education services, including the youth service, in the light of their assessment of local needs and priorities.

Further Education Colleges

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what has been capital expenditure on colleges of further education in both cash and constant price terms in every year since 1979. [34022]

Mr. Paice: The information requested is available only since 1989–90, and is set out in the table.

Capital expenditure at colleges of further education in England, 1989–90—1993–94

Year	£ million (cash)	£ million (1994 prices)
1989–90	141	173
1990–91	123	140
1991–92	98	105
1992–93	107	110
1993–94	261	261

Notes:

[1] Expenditure between 1989–90 and 1992–93 was incurred by local authorities. It does not include expenditure at sixth form colleges, for which separate data are not available.

[2] The 1993–94 figure shows expenditure incurred by colleges, including sixth form colleges, in the further education sector between April 1993 and July 1994 (16 months).

[3] All the cash figures show outturn expenditure from all sources. Those for 1989–90—1992–93 are derived from local authorities' expenditure returns to DOE. That for 1993–94 has been aggregated by FEFC from colleges' accounts.

Young People in Care

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what research her Department has carried out into the employment histories of young people who have left care. [33836]

Mr. Paice *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The Department has not commissioned research on the employment histories of young people after they have left local authority care.

WALES

Nursery School Places

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the cost of each local education authority of providing *(a)* a nursery school place and *(b)* a nursery class place; and what element of the cost relates to capital expenditure. [35406]

Mr. Richards: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he plans to continue to fund all the places that local education authorities currently provide for *(a)* three-year-olds and *(b)* four-year-olds. [35404]

Mr. Richards: Provision is currently at the discretion of local education authorities. The local government revenue settlement is unhypothecated in Wales and it is for local authorities themselves to decide how that settlement is spent.

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* three-year-olds and *(b)* four-year-olds in each local education authority had (i) a full-time place or (ii) a part-time place in a nursery school or class in (1) 1980, (2) 1990 and (3) the last date for which figures are available; and what percentage of the age group this was in each year. [35408]

Mr. Richards: The following table shows pupil numbers at local education authority nursery or primary schools. For primary school pupils, all pupils aged three or four are included irrespective of whether they are taught in nursery or ordinary classes. Comparable figures for part-time pupils are not available for 1980.

At local education authority nursery and primary schools

Pupil numbers as at January

	(1)	Clwyd	Dyfed	Gwent	Gwynedd	Mid Glamorgan	Powys	South Glamorgan	West Glamorgan	Wales	Wales[1]
1980											
Full-time pupils	Aged 3	269	412	446	114	2,598	240	98	217	4,394	13
	Aged 4	3,450	3,489	3,886	2,249	6,017	1,267	2,733	3,174	26,265	77
1990											
Part-time pupils	Aged 3	2,977	673	2,512	306	1,137	13	1,709	3,131	12,458	33
	Aged 4	1,513	271	1,262	155	516	8	1,321	1,467	6,512	17
Full-time pupils	Aged 3	5	1,001	286	140	2,633	309	59	6	4,438	12
	Aged 4	3,449	3,284	4,124	1,753	6,259	1,075	2,920	3,160	26,024	69
1994											
Part time pupils	Aged 3	3,322	681	2,975	430	1,163	10	2,105	3,357	14,043	37
	Aged 4	1,689	269	1,488	222	512	6	1,046	1,520	6,752	18

At local education authority nursery and primary schools

Pupil numbers as at January

		(1)	Clwyd	Dyfed	Gwent	Gwynedd	Mid Glamorgan	Powys	South Glamorgan	West Glamorgan	Wales	Wales[1]
Full-time pupils	Aged 3	1	1,134	159	5	2,896	334	84	3	4,616	12
	Aged 4	3,552	3,294	4,138	1,900	6,388	1,143	3,784	2,985	27,184	71

Source:
Schools' Census.
Notes:
(1) Age at 31 December of the preceding year.
[1]total as a percentage of estimated age group at 31 December of the preceding year

Pre-school Places

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the additional staff required to ensure that all four-year-olds will have a pre-school place in April 1997, listing teaching and other support staff separately and indicating the qualifications that staff in a typical pre-school establishment will be expected to have. [35405]

Mr. Richards: We will be consulting further on such issues as staff:pupil ratios and staff qualifications. There are no plans to impose new qualification requirements.

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) if he will make a statement about his proposals for deregulation in the pre-school sector, and what effect his proposals will have on the level of child:adult ratios, the quality of premises provided and the equipment which should be available; and [35403]

(2) if he will make a statement about the inspection framework he intends to establish to cover pre-school places provided under the nursery voucher scheme and what will be the relative roles of ACAC, Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector and local authority social services and education departments. [35401]

Mr. Richards: These matters are still under consideration and will be the subject of further consultation with interested bodies. I intend to issue a document outlining final details of implementation in the autumn.

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the cost of administration and inspection of pre-school places eligible for the nursery voucher scheme when it is in full operation. [35399]

Mr. Richards: No final decisions regarding administration arrangements and inspection regimes have been taken. I do not expect administration overhead costs to be significant in relation to the value of the voucher.

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much he estimates will be recouped from each local education authority of the money already spent on pre-school places to finance the nursery voucher scheme when it is fully in operation; and what percentage this will represent of the money currently provided for pre-school places. [35398]

Mr. Richards: Details of the arrangements for recoupment will be the subject of further consultation with local authorities. Final decisions will depend on the outcome of the public expenditure survey although of course no specific provision is made within the local authority revenue settlement for pre-school education.

Pre-school Play Groups

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many three and four-year-olds had a place in a pre-school play group in each local education authority in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1990 and *(c)* the last date for which figures are available; what was the percentage of the age group in each year; and what was the average number of sessions attended by a child in each year. [35407]

Mr. Richards: The number of places provided in pre-school playgroups at 31 March each year is shown in the table. Information is not collected centrally on the number of children who attend or on the number of sessions attended.

Places in playgroups at 31 March

	1980	1990	1994
Clwyd	3,802	4,394	5,140
Dyfed	2,443	3,371	3,089
Gwent	2,277	2,843	3,193
Gwynedd	2,418	3,107	3,348
Mid Glamorgan	2,163	3,517	3,928
Powys	1,067	1,491	1,513
South Glamorgan	2,695	3,502	4,093
West Glamorgan	888	1,247	1,318
Wales	17,753	23,472	25,622

Note:
Places in playgroups provided by a local authority, registered private playgroups and in playgroups exempt from registration, e.g. those on Crown property, are included.

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much funding he provides for pre-school playgroups in Wales; how this is shared between recipient organisations; and what is the average amount per child attending playgroups run by recipients of Welsh Office funding. [35396]

Mr. Richards: Wales Pre-School Playgroups Associations and Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin have been awarded departmental grants in 1995–96 of £164,400 and £152,872 respectively towards their core administrative costs. Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin has also been awarded a grant of £537,000 in 1995–96 under the scheme of support for the Welsh language. Local playgroups are not funded directly by the Department. Therefore, there are no figures on average departmental funding per child.

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much each local authority provides for funding to the Wales Pre-School Playgroups Association and Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin; and what is the average amount of funding for each place the respective organisations provide. [35402]

Mr. Richards: This information is not held centrally.

Firland's Training

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultations he has had with the chairman of the South Glamorgan training and enterprise council in relation to the termination of the youth training and training for work 1995–96 contracts with Firland's Training; what representations he has received in relation to these contracts; and if he will make a statement. [35239]

Mr. Hague: I have had no consultations with the chairman of South Glamorgan training and enterprise council and have received no representations on this matter.

Contracts between training and enterprise councils and their training providers are a matter for the contractual parties concerned.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Sectretary of State for Wales what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35302]

Mr. Hague: The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

General Practitioner Fundholders

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been allocated to general practitioner fundholders in management allowances in each year since the start of the scheme. [35386]

Mr. Richards: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible and place a copy of my reply in the Library of the House.

NHS Trust Boards (Salaries)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list by wave and region *(a)* the number of non-executive directors and *(b)* the number of chairs of NHS trust boards by salary band. [35506]

Mr. Richards: The number of *(a)* non-executive directors and *(b)* chairs of NHS trusts by salary band, by wave, is as follows:

	Number of non-executive directors	*Number of chairmen in band*		
		1	*2*	*3*
First wave (1992)	5	—	1	—
Second wave (1993)	62	5	7	1
Third wave (1994)	43	2	5	3
Fourth wave (1995)	17	2	1	2

Note:
Remuneration of chairmen is:
Band 1 £19,285 p.a.
Band 2 £17,145 p.a.
Band 3 £15,125 p.a.

Nursery Vouchers Scheme

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the value of the voucher for four-year-olds in Wales under the provision for regional variations in value. [35397]

Mr. Richards: The voucher will initially be worth £1,100. Further consideration will be given to the desirability of regional variations in its value in the light of experience.

Welsh Development Agency

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proposals he has to review the participation of the Welsh Development Agency in urban development schemes following the 29th report of the Committee of Public Accounts on the Welsh Development Agency; what consultations he has had with the chairman of the Welsh Development Agency concerning compensation to affected third parties and the future of joint venture schemes. [35588]

Mr. Hague: The Government will be responding to the 29th report of the Committee of Public Accounts in the usual way in the form of a Treasury Minute.

The Welsh Development Agency's participation in urban development and joint venture schemes is governed by guidelines which were revised in March this year. The revised guidelines took full account of the recommendations of the Grant Thornton report, and were subject to consultation between the WDA and my Department. Copies of the revised guidelines were placed in the Library of the House. The agency has also revised its procedures.

Welsh Language

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consideration he will be giving to the role of the Welsh language in places provided under the nursery voucher scheme. [35400]

Mr. Richards: I will be giving the matter full consideration following consultation with interested bodies and advice from ACAC.

Dental Students

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the number of places for dental students in Wales, in each of the past 10 years; and if the trend in the number of dental student places in Wales differs from the figures for the United Kingdom as a whole. [35233]

Mr Hague: Forty five until the intake in October 1989, and 55 since that date. Following the last review of medical and dental manpower in 1982, there has been an expansion of 20 per cent. at the Welsh dental school compared with a reduction of 10 per cent. elsewhere.

Cardiff Bay Opera House

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date his Department first received representations in relation to the acquisition of land from Associated British Ports for the purposes of constructing the proposed Cardiff bay opera house; on what date representations were received with particular reference to potential conflicts of interest; on what date the Cardiff bay opera house trust transaction with Associated British Ports was completed; and on what date the conflict of interest issue was resolved. [35234]

Mr. Hague: The acquisition of land for the proposed Cardiff bay opera house is an operational matter for Cardiff bay development corporation. At the end of 1992, the Welsh Office became aware that a site owned by Associated British Ports was being considered. A possible conflict of interest was raised with the Welsh Office and resolved in September 1993. The heads of terms agreement between CBDC and Associated British Ports was signed on 9 December 1994.

Welsh Health Common Services Authority

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultations he has had with the chairman of the Welsh health common services authority regarding the inclusion of an in-house bid in the feasibility studies for the market-testing of the estatecare division of the authority; and if he will make a statement. [35237]

Mr. Hague : None.

Butetown Link

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultations he has had with the chairman of the Cardiff bay development corporation concerning the level of grant-in-aid to South Glamorgan county council for the Butetown link and its intended completion as a fixed-price contract; and if he will make a statement. [35238]

Mr. Hague: None.

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has received concerning overspending on the Butetown link road; what impact this has had on the calculations of transport supplementary grant; and what amount has been paid under this heading in each financial year during which there has been significant public expenditure on the Butetown link road. [35240]

Mr. Hague: I have received no representations. Revisions to the cost of the scheme have been taken into account in the annual transport grant settlement. Grant has been made available as follows:

	£ million
1987–88	2.4
1988–89	2.2
1989–90	2.2
1990–91	6.2
1991–92	14.0
1992–93	13.2
1993–94	14.1
1994–95	11.8
1995–96[1]	1.3

[1] Provisional

National Health Service

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answer of 9 December, *Official Report*, column *420*, (1) if he will update the figures on non-NHS provider spending and; and [35441]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 9 December 1994, *Official Report*, column *422*, if he will update the figures on private patient income. [35507]

Mr. Richards: The information is not yet available. I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible, and place a copy of my reply in the Library of the House.

National Health Service (Staff)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* administrative and clerical staff and *(c)* nursing and midwifery staff were employed in each health region in 1994. [35410]

Mr. Richards: The information is given in the table. Staff employed by NHS trusts are included in the health authority area in which they are situated.

Staff in post (whole-time equivalents) at 30 September 1994

Health authority area	*General and senior managers*	*Administrative and clerical staff*[1]	*Nursing and midwifery staff*[2]
Clwyd[3]	154	933	3,349
East Dyfed[4]	119	653	2,023
Gwent	159	992	3,508
Gwynedd	65	575	2,004
Mid Glamorgan	189	1,240	4,790
Pembrokeshire	17	238	725
Powys	53	227	995
South Glamorgan[5]	286	1,705	4,418
West Glamorgan	98	1,042	3,334
Welsh Health Common Services Authority[6]	153	1,008	73
Wales	1,292	8,613	25,220

[1] Excluding general and senior managers.
[2] Excluding pre-registration learners.
[3] Includes staff employed by the North Wales Ambulance Trust.
[4] Includes staff employed by Dyfed FHSA.
[5] Includes staff employed by the South and East Wales Ambulance Trust.
[6] Includes staff employed by Health Promotion Authority for Wales.

NHS Trusts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answer of 8 December 1994, *Official Report* columns *346-47*, if he will update the figures on trust start up costs. [35589]

Mr. Richards: The following contributions have been made available for the shadow running periods of NHS trusts established in Wales in 1995:

£250,000 to: Cardiff Community Healthcare NHS Trust;

University Dental Hospital NHS Trust;

University Hospital of Wales Healthcare NHS Trust.

£275,000 to: West Wales Ambulance NHS Trust.

£75,000: Glan-y-Mor NHS Trust.[1]

Note:

[1] This figure represents interim costs only. Cost details for shadow running in 1995–96 are awaited.

European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages

Mr. Wigley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what date the Welsh Office first considered whether to sign the European charter for regional and minority languages; what meetings have taken place between Welsh Office Ministers and *(a)* representatives of the European Union, *(b)* members of the Welsh Language Board and *(c)* other

interested parties on the matter since the Government first considered the issue; and if he will make a statement on Government policy on this matter. [35626]

Mr. Richards: The charter was opened for signature in November 1992, and the Government have had the matter under consideration since that time. The question of signature is not one for the Welsh Office to consider independent of other Government Departments, since any signature by the Government would be for the United Kingdom as a whole.

Welsh Office Ministers have had no meetings with representatives of the European Union on this matter. The charter is a product of the Council of Europe rather than of the European Union. Officials have discussed the charter with officials of the Welsh Language Board on a number of occasions since the board was established in 1993.

Slaughterhouses

Mr. Wigley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of the slaughtering capacity that currently exists in Wales conforms to EU required standards; and what proportion of the animals that are currently slaughtered in Wales can be slaughtered in slaughterhouses that conform to EU standards. [35627]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The proportion of the slaughtering capacity that currently exists in Wales that is licensed for trade with European Union member states, is approximately 75 per cent. It would be possible for those abattoirs to accommodate the current levels of throughput at other Welsh slaughterhouses, on an annual basis.

Panteg Monitoring Project (Rechem)

Mr. Sweeney: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he will publish the results of the final phase of monitoring work by the university of East Anglia on polychlorinated biphenyls and dioxin contamination in the Panteg area of Pontypool. [36074]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: I have today published the outcome of the final elements of monitoring work commissioned by the Welsh Office on contamination levels in the Panteg area of Pontypool. I have arranged for copies of the report to be placed in the Library of the House, together with a commentary from Professor Roberts, the Secretary of State's independent adviser for this study.

This report—the seventh in the series of reports which have been published since the study began in January 1991—contains the results of additional poultry produce and grass sampling. It represents the conclusion of a most significant piece of environmental research, meticulously undertaken by independent experts. The results have helped considerably to resolve uncertainties and concerns over possible PCB and dioxin contamination in the vicinity of the Rechem incinerator at Pontypool.

The main part of the study was completed and published in April 1993 and the overall findings were reassuring. No evidence of widespread contamination in the Panteg area was found. A small area with elevated concentrations was revealed close to the Rechem plant and the company identified as a source of this localised contamination. Although the levels of contamination detected were not considered to pose any significant risk to public health or to the food chain, some additional monitoring was recommended to clarify certain points. This work was quickly put in hand by the Welsh Office and the subsequent results have been published as they have become available.

In addition, over the past two years or so, considerable improvements have been made on the Rechem site itself, including significant investment in new incineration and emission control plant. This should reduce emissions from the site and monitoring is taking place in order to verify this.

The seventh report concludes the environmental investigation. This report and the earlier results have shown that, with the exception of eggs from one property neighbouring the Rechem plant, estimated human exposure to PCBs and dioxins in the Panteg area is similar to that in other areas. The additional research has also provided useful reassurance that locally produced fruit and vegetables are safe to eat. No further monitoring in the wider Panteg area is therefore proposed, a view fully endorsed by the technical steering group which has been overseeing this project, and by Professor Roberts. However, some additional monitoring in relation to the one property mentioned above is recommended and this will be followed up by Her Majesty's inspectorate of pollution. Meanwhile, earlier advice to the owners of this property not to consume produce from their poultry is being updated in the light of the latest findings.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government World Wide Web server known as www.open.gov.uk and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34688]

Mr. Hague: My Department has made available information, in both English and Welsh languages, on private finance initiative projects within Wales via the CCTA Government Information Service. The portfolio "Investment Opportunities in the South Wales Valleys" will also be published shortly via the CCTA service.

The Department continues to review information suitable for dissemination via the Internet and expects to make greater use of it in the near future.

Consideration is currently being given to the Welsh Office being an Internet information site in its own right.

Baglan Hospital

Mr. John Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what grounds there has been a delay in inviting tenders for contracts for financing and building the new hospital at Baglan; how much slippage is involved and when the advertisements for tenders will be ready for publication. [34353]

Mr. Richards: The Glan-y-Mor NHS trust is producing the outline business case for the new hospital at Baglan. They expect to submit the document within four weeks. Subject to the acceptability of the proposals,

the trust hopes to be in a position to advertise for expressions of interest in August or September.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34690]

Mr. Hague: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the United Kingdom economy. It continues to help smaller companies by keeping inflation and interest rates low and by reducing legislative, administrative and tax burdens. It also provides direct assistance where appropriate.

The White Paper published in May 1995 outlines a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

My Department works with local authorities, training and enterprise councils, the development agencies and local enterprise agencies in providing a range of services for small businesses in Wales. We have established eight business development consortia to streamline the assistance available and to make it more easily accessible through a single all-Wales telephone number. I expect that service to be fully operational within the next 6 months.

Some of the specific measures promoted by my Department are as follows:

Enterprise Promotion

In 1994–95, TECs helped 2,235 people to start their own businesses, compared with 2,200 in 1993–94. The number of counselling sessions undertaken by business start up scheme applicants/participants increased from 10,438 in 1993–94 to 13,569 last year.

The Welsh design advisory service which was launched in December 1994 provides advice on all aspects to small businesses throughout Wales.

Grant Support

The Welsh Office continues to provide grant support for small firms, having regard to the level of demand in each year. During the year ending June 1995, 122 firms employing under 200 people accepted offers of regional selective assistance totalling £11.676 million. The grants were forecast to help create or safeguard 2,501 jobs and generate £72 million private sector investment. In the previous year, 130 firms accepted offers totalling £16.876 million, forecast to create or safeguard 3,411 jobs and help generate £100 million private sector investment. Also in the year ending 30 June 1995, 74 small firms—those with fewer than 25 employees for investment grant and fewer than 50 for innovation grant—accepted offers of regional enterprise grant totalling £1.346 million. The grants were forecast to help generate £3.91 million private sector investment. In the previous year,138 firms accepted offers totalling £2 million with forecast private sector investment totalling £7.16 million.

My Department is also continuing with an active programme under the small firms merit award for research and technology—SMART. In the last two years, small firms from Wales have done well, gaining 17 and 21 awards respectively—approximately 9 per cent. of the UK total. Under the support for products under research scheme—SPUR—grant support for small firms in Wales fell from £1.21 million in 1993–94 to £0.9 million in 1994–95 but utilised the full balance remaining for the initial three year programme.

Elsewhere, the national "Managing in the 90's" best practice awareness programme, which is aimed primarily at small and medium-sized enterprises—SME's—has recently been relaunched with a new three year, £15 million package. My Department supports local activities under the programme including workshops and seminars, plus the acclaimed "Inside Welsh Industry" programme of free visits to exemplar companies. Last year seven highly successful workshops were organised in Wales on best practice themes attracting over 200 delegates. Meanwhile, visits were arranged to 10 exemplar companies involving some 120 visitors representing Welsh SMEs. Also of specific interest to Welsh SMEs are the Welsh Office technology transfer facilitation grants which encourage close collaboration between industry and academia involving new and emerging technologies. Eight grants were awarded under this programme last year.

In addition, there have been 14 new teaching company scheme programmes started in Wales since July 1994.

Grants to business formerly made available by the DBRW and WDA are now the responsibility of local authorities.

Deregulation

The Welsh Office is continuing to contribute actively to the Government's drive to reduce the burden of regulations on business. No Wales-only regulations have been identified as placing a burden on business.

Sport

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will express general Government expenditure in Wales on sport as a proportion of the corresponding United Kingdom figure; and if he will make a statement. [35127]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: In 1993–94 the amount of grant in aid paid to the Sports Council in Wales represented about 9 per cent. of comparable expenditure in the United Kingdom.

Food-Related Industries

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what contribution in percentage terms *(a)* the fishing industry, *(b)* agriculture, *(c)* catering, *(d)* food and drink distribution and *(e)* food and drink manufacturing make to the Welsh GDP; and if he will make a statement. [34964]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: In 1993 agriculture accounted for 2 per cent. of Welsh GDP according to estimates from the Central Statistical Office. The latest available data for food, drink and tobacco manufacturing are for 1992, when these industries accounted for 2.7 per cent. of Welsh GDP. Equivalent information for fishing catering, and food and drink distribution is not available.

Flooding and Coastal Erosion

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on action to alleviate flooding and coastal erosion in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34972]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The amounts of grants provided by the Welsh Office to the National Rivers Authority and local authorities in Wales for action to alleviate flooding and coastal erosion in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 were £3,513,326 and £1,418,632 respectively.

CADW Expenditure

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will express general government expenditure in Wales on historic buildings and ancient monuments as a proportion of the corresponding United Kingdom figure; and if he will make a statement. [35128]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Provision for assistance towards the conservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings is made available via Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments executive agency. Expenditure by Cadw in the year 1993–94, including running costs, represented 8 per cent. of comparable costs in the United Kingdom.

Film Funding

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much money is spent annually promoting the film industry in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [34961]

Mr. Richards: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible and place a copy of my reply in the Library of the House.

Beef Special Premium

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the estimated cost of the beef special premium scheme for 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34992]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: £17,220,370, including extensification premium of £3,867,761.

Management Allowances

Mr. Rowlands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what have been the estimated costs of management allowances for GP fundholders to date. [34737]

Mr. Richards: The estimated cost over the financial years 1990–91 to 1994–95, is £8.9 million.
Source: Family Health Services Receipts and Payments returns.

Mr. Rowlands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what has been the estimated costs of the management allowances for the preparatory year for GP fundholders since their introduction. [34736]

Mr. Richards: The estimated cost over the financial years 1990–91 to 1994–95 is around £2 million.

Agricultural Labour Force

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of the total Welsh agricultural labour force works on land with less-favoured area status; and if he will make a statement. [34971]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: According to the agricultural census in 1994, approximately 67 per cent. of persons engaged in work on main agricultural holdings, work on holdings with less-favoured area status—that is those with a majority of the land within their boundaries defined as less-favoured areas. This includes spouses of farmers, partners and directors.

Slaughterhouses

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the average hygiene assessment system score for Welsh slaughterhouses; and if he will make a statement. [34977]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The last set of health assessment scores for Welsh red meat slaughterhouses gave an average score of 58.

Milk Licence Holders

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the number of contracted milk licence holders in Wales; what proportion of the total figure for England and Wales this represents; and if he will make a statement. [34976]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Licences for the sale of untreated milk are no longer required under the Dairy Products (Hygiene) Regulations 1995.

Welsh Language

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how much money has been given by his office each year since 1990 to youth organisations that promote the Welsh language; [35487]

(2) how much of the money that has been given each year since 1990 to youth organisations that actively promote the Welsh language by the Welsh Office comes from Europe; and from what scheme it is paid. [35485]

Mr. Richards: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible and place a copy of my reply in the Library of the House.

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much money was given by his office to voluntary organisations that teach the Welsh language to adult learners in each year since 1991–92. [35486]

Mr. Richards: Since 1 April 1993, the Further Education Funding Council for Wales has been able to fund voluntary organisations via sponsorship and franchise arrangements with further education institutes. The funding council does not hold information on the level of funding that voluntary organisations receive for Welsh adult provision. However, the Welsh Office and the Welsh Language board have made the following contributions to the National Language centre at Nant Gwrtheyrn since 1991–92.

1991–92: £73,500
1992–93: £79,000
1993–94: £93,600
1994–95: £105,000

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of the Welsh Language board's budget is spent on administration; and if he will make a statement. [34978]

Mr. Richards: The Welsh Language Board's running costs for 1995–96 are £1,123,000. Within that allocation central administration costs, accommodation costs and the salaries of the staff employed on central administrative duties are estimated to be £400,000, about 20 per cent. of the board's total budget for the year.

Class Sizes

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the average class size in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Wales and (ii) in each local education authority area in Wales. [35208]

Mr. Richards: The information requested is published in tables 3.06 and 4.13 of "Statistics of Education and Training in Wales: Schools No. 3 1995", a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Coal Authority

Mr. Ashby: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when the annual report and accounts of the Coal Authority will be laid before Parliament. [36073]

Mr. Page: I have today laid a copy before each House of Parliament.

Lloyd's of London

Mr. Duncan: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will give details of ministerial responsibilities toward Lloyd's of London. [36071]

Mr. Lang: I am an underwriting member of Lloyd's for 1995, and I have instructed my underwriting agents to give immediate notice that I shall cease underwriting at the end of 1995. Until such time as my outstanding open syndicate commitments have been closed, I have instructed my officials and ministerial colleagues not to brief me on Lloyd's issues, and I shall stand aside from all decisions concerning Lloyd's. The Minister for Trade will have responsibility for Lloyd's, assisted by the Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs.

Regional Policy

Mr. Hawkins: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when his Department will respond to the fourth report from the Trade and Industry Select Committee of Session 1994–95, HC 356, on regional policy. [36075]

Mr. Eggar: I have today published a command paper setting out the Government's response to this valuable report and announcing measures to improve the delivery of RSA by the Government offices for the English regions.

National Weights and Measures Laboratory

Mr. Jessel: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if the review of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory has been completed, and if he will make a statement. [36077]

Mr. Lang: On 22 July 1994, my predecessor informed the House of his decision that, following a prior options review, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory should remain an executive agency of the DTI. An evaluation report on the performance of the laboratory has now been completed and a revised framework document has been prepared. Copies of these documents, which complete the agency review process, have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Petroleum Licensing

Mr. Mans: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement about further inshore petroleum licensing. [36076]

Mr. Richard Page: I am today inviting oil and gas companies to apply for licences in all unlicensed areas of onshore Great Britain in the seventh landward petroleum licensing round. This new round will encourage exploration particularly in new areas where more field may be discovered.

It is now three years since the last onshore licencing round and much has changed since then. Last month the Minister for Industry and Energy announced the new landward areas licensing regulations which will enable companies to obtain a single licence, the petroleum exploration and development licence covering all stages of activity. This round is the first opportunity for companies to apply under this new, more flexible regime put in place by the regulations.

Privatisation of British Coal has also taken place since the previous onshore licensing round so ownership of unworked coal has passed to the Coal Authority, which has a duty to have regard to the desirability of exploiting coalbed methane where that is economically viable. This change will assist those companies seeking to exploit coalbed methane and I am very keen that the potential of this new source of energy should be realised.

Holders of existing exploration, appraisal and production licences can also apply to convert their existing licences to the new petroleum exploration and development licences to take advantage of this opportunity to extend the duration of their licences. In order to obtain a new licence, the holders of these existing licences will need to provide to my Department an acceptable programme of work which they will undertake in exploring for and developing onshore fields in their licensed area.

Application for the seventh round will need to be considered carefully, in particular the proposed work programmes, before I am able to announce licence awards.

I will now publish in the *Official Journal* of the European Communities, a formal announcement giving the detailed terms for the seventh round, including the format of applications, the information required with the application and the basis on which awards will be made. This is the first time the *Official Journal* has been used to announce a licensing round and follows our implementation of the EU hydrocarbons licensing directive at the end of June. The closing date for applications will be announced in the *Official Journal.*

I will place copies of this announcement in the Libraries of both Houses.

Payment of Bills

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proportion of bill are paid on time by Government Departments and their agencies. [36070]

Mr. Page: Government Departments and their agencies are required to monitor their payment performance and publish the results in their departmental or annual reports. The following table lists, by Department, the proportion of bills paid within the agreed credit period, or within 30 days where no credit period has been agreed, for 1994–95.

The Government recognise that late payment is a serious problem, particularly for small businesses. It is essential that the Government set and example of prompt settlement of bills. The Government expect all other public sector bodies to follow their lead. I do not regard my own Department's performance as satisfactory and intend to ensure that it improves.

The full results are:

Ministerial departments	*Per cent. invoices paid within target*
Cabinet Office	82
Central Statistical Office	86
Crown Prosecution Service	81.4
Ministry of Defence	99.99
Department of Education	95
Employment Department/ACAS	96.3
Employment Service	98.3
Department of the Environment	92
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	92
Department of Health	91.9
Health and Safety Executive	90.3
Home Office	92
Lord Chancellors Department	93.5
Department of National Heritage	91
Department for National Savings	97.3
Northern Ireland Office	94.7
Overseas Development Administration	87
Her Majesty's Paymaster General	94.3
The Scottish Office	96
Department of Social Security	96
Department of Trade and Industry	84
Department of Transport	93.1
Her Majesty's Treasury	82
Welsh Office	95

Non-ministerial Departments	*Per cent. invoices paid within target*
Charity Commission	91
Forestry Commission	82
HM Customs and Excise	91.8
Office of Electricity Regulation	99.7
Office of Fair Trading	92
Friendly Societies Commission/Registry of Friendly Societies (including the Building Societies Commission)	96
Office of Gas Supply	98
Inland Revenue	86.3
National Investment and Loans Office	100
Office of the National Lottery	50
Office of Passenger Rail Franchising	93.8
Office of HM Chief Inspector of Schools (Wales)	94
Serious Fraud Office	74
Office for Standards in Education	95
Office of Telecommunications	91
Office of Water Services	[1]

[1]Department of Environment return

Assistance for Exceptional Projects Scheme

Mr. Stephen: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a further statement about the future of the assistance for exceptional projects scheme of financial support for investment and research and development projects. [36072]

Mr. Eggar: Assistance for exceptional projects operated in all areas of Great Britain under section 8 of the Industrial Development Act 1982. The House will know that AEP has been suspended since March 1993 because of the Government's doubts about the effectiveness of the scheme. A further announcement about its continued suspension was made in March 1994. During the five years 1988-89 to 1992–93 that the scheme was open for applications, only three projects met the very exacting criteria for support out of 60 applications made. The Government continue to be satisfied that it has the necessary means to support exceptional projects and has concluded that the AEP facility should not be reintroduced.

Military Exports (Licences)

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade on what dates the details of export licences covering military list applications in *(a)* 1985 and *(b)* 1986 were destroyed; and who authorised their destruction. [35345]

Mr. Oppenheim: These records have not been destroyed.

BMARC

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to the President of the Board of Trade's oral statement on BMARC of 13 June, *Official Report*, column 595–97, in what month in 1986 the first intelligence report was received and which other companies, countries and subject matter were mentioned. [35346]

Mr. Oppenheim: It is not Government practice to comment on intelligence matters. The Trade and Industry Select Committee is now undertaking an inquiry into the BMARC affair. I shall consider in due course what information can be given to the Committee for the purposes of that enquiry.

Overseas Projects Board

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment he has made of the success of the Overseas Projects Board at helping small businesses to win overseas work. [34533]

Mr. Nelson: It is not possible to apportion to the Overseas Projects Board an amount of overseas work successfully won by small businesses. Nevertheless, I am confident that the success of the board and of the Overseas Trade Services in general has been invaluable to small businesses in winning overseas work.

Staff

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the average annual salary of staff seconded to his Department from the private sector; what are the salaries of *(a)* private sector staff seconded to the DTI and *(b)* civil servants performing similar duties; and if he will make a statement. [34529]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: Staff seconded to the Department from the private sector remain the employees of their parent companies, who determine their remuneration. Civil service salaries may vary considerably as any given grade; and the provision of details of the salaries of civil servants performing similar duties to secondees could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many of the exporters seconded from the private sector have come from small and medium-sized enterprises. [34532]

Mr. Evans: Since the launch of the export promoter initiative, 120 export promoters have been seconded from the private sector to the DTI. To determine what proportion of these secondees have come from small and medium sized enterprises could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what criteria his Department uses to determine the remuneration of staff seconded from the private sector. [34531]

Mr. Evans: Staff seconded to the DTI from the private sector remain the employees of their companies, who determine their remuneration.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many staff were seconded from the private sector to his Department in 1994. [34530]

Mr. Evans: During 1994, a total of 186 people were seconded from the private sector to the Department.

Business Investment

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment he has made of what constitutes an appropriate level of business investment; and what are the equivalent figures for ASEAN countries. [34534]

Mr. Nelson: The appropriate level of investment is a matter for business, not Government, to decide. Since 1980 business investment as a share of GDP in the UK has similar to other major economies, apart from Japan. Figures for ASEAN countries are not available on a comparable basis.

Life Companies (Distribution of Funds)

Mr. Denham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list those life companies which have applied to vary the distribution of long-term funds between shareholders and policyholders, in the past year, and provide in each case, the sum involved and the agreed distribution ratio. [35347]

Mr. Oppenheim: On 24 February 1995, United Friendly Insurance plc announced the basis on which it proposed to allocate surplus from then on. This followed discussions, starting in 1992, on how the rules in section 30 of the Insurance Companies Act—governing variations between the shareholders' and policyholders' share of distribution surplus—should apply to the circumstances of the company. Policyholders will be entitled to receive 90 per cent. of surplus arising on those parts of United Friendly's business in respect of which it had been determined that they were eligible to share in such surplus.

On the same day, my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary set out the Department's general approach to such issues in his reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Shoreham (Mr. Stephen), *Official Report*, column 362–63.

Following that announcement, each of the companies listed below has announced that it would be approaching my Department for similar discussions:

Britannic Assurance plc;

Legal and General Assurance Society Ltd.;

Refuge Assurance plc.

Some other companies have also approached the Department on a commercially confidential basis at this stage. The outcome of all such discussions will be made public, if they appear to have a bearing on policyholders' reasonable expectations in respect of allocation of surplus.

Southern Electric

Mr. Denham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the profit or loss reported by the retail activities of Southern Electric in the last financial year prior to privatisation. [35348]

Mr. Eggar: In 1989–90 Southern Electric reported operating profits for its appliance retailing business of £1.8 million—current cost accounting—or £1.9 million—historic cost accounting.

Brent Spar

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what requests have been made to Shell by his Department for reports on onshore dismantling of Brent Spar by Smit Engineering and Heeremac; and if he will make a statement. [34662]

Mr. Eggar: My Department has made no such requests. As indicated in the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Perth and Kinross (Ms Cunningham) on 4 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *154*, two reports dealing with onshore disposal, one by McDermott Engineering (Europe) Ltd. the other by Heerema Engineering Services (UK) Ltd. were submitted to my Department by Shell in support of its abandonment programme.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) how many tests have been conducted on the radioactivity of the scale on the inside of the Brent Spar; how many samples of sludge from the Brent Spar's six tanks were analysed; and if he will give the reasons for the amount of testing; [34509]

(2) how many samples were taken, and what analysis was conducted, on the Brent Spar and its waste water at any stage since shell indicated its wish to remove it from its former site. [24510]

Mr. Eggar: Independent surveys were carried out which enabled Shell to assess the contents of the Spar and to satisfy Government that deep-sea disposal is the best practicable environmental option.

Oil Installations (Dumping at Sea)

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what studies his Department has carried out into the cumulative effect of dumping 50 to 60 oil installations at sea. [34661]

Mr. Eggar: Such matters will be addressed in considering any particular case.

Liquefaction Plant, Point of Ayr

Mr. Hanson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what assessment he has made of the future use of the liquefaction plant site at Point of Ayr, Clwyd; and if he intends to initiate further discussions on the site and its future; [34879]

(2) if he will make it his policy to prevent demolition of the liquefaction plant site at Point of Ayr, Clwyd; and if he will list the representations he has received on this subject to date; [34880]

(3) what has been the total investment to date *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* by British Coal in the liquefaction plant at Point of Ayr, Clwyd. [34878]

Mr. Page: The future of the liquefaction plant at Point of Ayr is a matter for British Coal. The coal liquefaction R and D project has successfully completed the demonstration of technology to produce high grade petrol and diesel fuels from a wide range of coals. British Coal has explored in some considerable detail the options for alternative uses of the site now that this R and D project has been completed, but unfortunately these have proved not be commercially viable. My Department has received no representations on this subject.

My Department, along with the industrial participants in the project, has been consulted on all the assessments on the future use of the site by British Coal. The Department has no plans to initiate any further discussions on the future of the site. However, I understand that Delyn borough council has recently expressed an interest to British Coal in developing the site offices, laboratories and workshops.

The total investment in the Point of Ayr coal liquefaction project by the participants is as follows:

	£ million
Department of Trade and Industry	5.413
British Coal Corporation	20.602
European Commission (DGXVII)	14.354
Industry and other contributions	3.947
Total cost	44.316

Note:

Theses figures are the projected outturn cost of the project.

National Engineering Laboratory

Mr. Ingram: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list those companies or organisations which have expressed an interest in purchasing the National Engineering Laboratory. [34567]

Mr. Ian Taylor: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 January 1995, *Official Report*, column *225*.

Legislative Plans

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35314]

Mr. Lang: The Government's plans for legislation will be announce in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

Loan Guarantee Scheme

Mrs. Liddell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the current level of *(a)* the margin and *(b)* the premium payable by firms on funds obtained under the Government's loan guarantee scheme for small firms. [34504]

Mr. Page: The margin over base is a commercial matter between the lender and the borrower. However, for variable rate lending most lenders are generally charging 2 to 2.5 per cent. over base.

The premium payable to the government is 1.5 per cent. a year of the outstanding balance for variable rate loans and 0.5 per cent. a year for loans at a fixed rate of interest. Borrowers who trade in the inner city task force and city challenge areas pay 0.5 per cent. a year for both fixed and variable rate lending

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the value of loans given to Welsh firms under the small firms loan guarantee scheme in 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34938]

Mr. Page: A total of 310 loans valued at £11 million were given to Welsh firms in 1994–95.

Inward Investment

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the number of jobs created or safeguarded by inward investment in each year since 1992–93; and if he will make a statement. [35009]

Mr. Eggar: According to figures notified to my Department's Invest in Britain Bureau, for the financial years from 1992–93 to 1994–95, the number of jobs created or safeguarded by inward investment projects are as follows:

Year	*New jobs*	*Safeguarded jobs*
1992–93	17,822	43,825
1993–94	30,536	69,754
1994–95	36,876	51,113

These figures are based on information provided by companies at the time of the announcement of the decision to invest, and take no account of subsequent developments.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proportion of inward investment into *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* Wales comes from the USA; and if he will make a statement. [34957]

Mr. Eggar: According to figures notified to my Department's Invest in Britain Bureau, for the financial year 1994–95, there were 434 inward investment decisions to locate in the UK, of which 212—48.8 per cent.—were from the USA with Wales's share of USA projects being 25—11.7 per cent. These figures are based on information provided by companies at the time of the announcement of the decision to invest, and take no account of subsequent developments.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proportion of total inward investment into the United Kingdom went to Wales in each year since 1992–93; and if he will make a statement. [34948]

Mr. Eggar: According to figures notified to my Department's Invest in Britain Bureau, for the financial years 1992–93 to 1994–95 the proportion of inward investment decisions that went to Wales are as follows:

Year	*Number of projects*	*Per cent. of UK total*
1992–93	66	19.8
1993–94	64	14.8
1994–95	50	11.5

These figures are based on information provided by companies at the time of the announcement of the decision to invest, and take no account of subsequent developments.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proportion of the total number of jobs created or safeguarded in the United Kingdom as a result of inward investment were created or safeguarded in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Northern Ireland, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England in each year since 1992–93; and if he will make a statement. [34949]

Mr. Eggar: According to figures notified to my Department's Invest in Britain Bureau, for the financial years 1992–93 to 1994–95 the proportion of the total number of jobs created or safeguarded in Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are as follows:

1992–93	*Number of jobs*	*Percentage of overall total*
Wales	7,321	11.8
Northern Ireland	6,099	9.8
Scotland	8,695	14.1
England	39,532	64.1
Total	61,647	
1993–94		
Wales	6,564	6.5
Northern Ireland	3,631	3.6
Scotland	12,274	12.2
England	77,821	77.5
Total	100,290	
1994–95		
Wales	5,003	5.6
Northern Ireland	5,146	5.8
Scotland	10,795	12.2
England	66,715	75.8
Total	88,009	

These figures are based on the number of projects notified to the Invest in Britain Bureau at the time of the decision to invest. Companies are under no obligation to notify their investment decisions and the figures take no account of subsequent developments.

Mr. Wigley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proportion of jobs created or safeguarded by inward investment in each of the last three years were in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [35025]

Mr. Eggar: According to figures notified to my Department's Invest in Britain Bureau, for the financial years 1992–93 to 1994–95 the proportion of jobs created or safeguarded by inward investment in Wales are as follows:

Year	*New jobs*	*Safeguarded jobs*	*Total jobs*
1992–93	2,382	4,939	7,321 (11.8 per cent. of UK total)
1993–94	3,913	2,651	6,564 (6.5 per cent. of UK total)
1994–95	2,989	2,014	5,003 (5.6 per cent. of UK total)

These figures are based on information provided by companies at the time of the announcement of the decision to invest, and take no account of subsequent developments.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Martin: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what measures have been taken in each of the years since 1992–93, to help the creation and survival of small businesses. [34756]

Mr. Eggar: The annual report "Small firms in Britain," produced by this Department, contains the information requested. A copy of the 1994 report is in the Library of the House. The 1995 report will be published shortly and a copy will be sent to all Members of Parliament.

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34693]

Mr. Page: "Helping Smaller Firms," published as a companion document to the new White Paper "Competitiveness—Forging Ahead" sets out in detail the progress that has been made since the publication of the

1994 competitiveness White Paper in helping small businesses. It also annouces a new package of support, aimed largely at smaller firms, and amounting to over £200 million over 4 years.

The DTI report "Small Firm in Britain 1995" due to be published shortly sets out current Government policy for small businesses and includes key statistical indicators. It will be distributed to all Members, as was the 1994 small firms report."

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33569]

Mr. Lang: The answer is as follows:

Number of consultancy contracts let centrally by the Department of Trade and Industry, 1990–94, plus value (including amendments)

Year	*Number*	*Value £*
1990	517	27,620,000
1991	597	38,491,000
1992	543	36,612,000
1993	402	29,369,000
1994	184	8,901,000

The above figures exclude consultancy contracts let independently by the Department's executive agencies.

Gas Regulation

Mr. O'Neill: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what safeguards will be put in place in respect of review and appeal procedures with regard to decisions made by the Director General of Ofgas in the granting of licences and operating mechanisms following enactment of the Gas Bill. [30074]

Mr. Eggar: The Director General of Gas Supply has followed an open, pro-competitive and consultative approach in reaching regulatory decisions. In the light of her policy on this, and of the safeguards already in the Bill, we would not envisage a need for further statutory procedures to be imposed.

However, we are considering whether it is appropriate for the Bill to provide for an explicit reserve power which would enable the Secretary of State to prescribe procedures for consultation before taking decisions and the giving of reasons in writing afterwards, should the situation change.

Departmental Property

Mr. Redwood: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans his Department has to dispose of leasehold and freehold obligations and interests in the central London area. [34375]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The DTI plans to pass back to Property Holdings the leasehold obligations for Ashdown house, 123 Victoria street, London SW1E 6RB and for 1 Palace street, London SW1E 5HE.

DTI's Radiocommunications Agency is relocating from Waterloo Bridge house, Waterloo road, London SE1 8UA, to South quay III, 189 Marsh wall, London E14 9SX. If another use cannot be found for Waterloo Bridge house, the lease will be surrendered to the landlord.

This reply does not take account of the recent machinery of Government changes.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which properties in central London his Department will vacate and which they will continue to occupy on the completion of 1 to 19 Victoria street. [34374]

Mr. Evans: The central London buildings which will be vacated by the Department of Trade and Industry after the re-occupation of 1 Victoria street is complete are:

Ashdown house, 123 Victoria street, London SW1E 6RB

1 Palace street, London SW1E 5HE

The Department will then continue to occupy, in central London:

Bridge place, 88–89 Eccleston square, London SW1V 1PT

151 Buckingham Palace road, London SW1W 9SS

Kingsgate house, 66–74 Victoria street, London SW1E 6SW

1 Victoria street, London SW1H OET

10–18 Victoria street, London SW1H ONN

There are a number of central London buildings occupied by the Department's executive agencies which are not affected by the re-occupation of 1 Victoria street. These are:-

Insolvency Service

21 Bloomsbury street, London WC1B 3QW

Patent Office

25 Southampton buildings, London WC2A 1AY

Hazlitt house, 45 Southampton buildings, London WC2A 1AR

Radiocommuications Agency

Waterloo Bridge house, Waterloo road, London SE1 8UA

This reply does not take into account any consequences which might result from the recent machinery of Government changes.

Late Filing Penalties

Ms Ruddock: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how much has been recovered under section 242a of the Companies Act 1985 in penalties and how much has been claimed in penalties and is still outstanding; how many claims for payment of a civil penalty under section 242a have ben made; and in how many cases the Registrar of Companies has exercised his discretion under subsection (3) of section 242a. [35230]

Mr. Oppenehim: Responsibility for the subject of the question has been delegated to Companies House under its chief executive, David Durham, I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from David Durham to Mrs. Joan Ruddock, dated 18 July 1995:

I have been asked to reply to your Question about late filing penalties.

The late filing penalty system was introduced on 1 July 1992 and details of the information you requested are set out in the table below.

	Penalties recovered £ million	Penalties claimed £ million	Penalties outstanding £ million	Penalties claimed (Number)	Penalties waived (Number)
July 1992–June 1995	42.2	55.9	9.1	259,878	8,853

I hope this is helpful.

Manufacturing Industry

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what new initiatives he is planning to make funds available for the expansion of manufacturing industry. [35069]

Mr. Eggar: The second competitiveness White Paper "Forging Ahead", published on 22 May 1995, set out a range of policies designed to help UK manufacturing industry, and other parts of UK industry and commerce, improve their performance and compete in world markets. It announced a package of new support for industry worth around £240 million over four years.

Radiation (Effects on Humans)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what experiments have been conducted on civilians in Wales without their knowledge by the Medical Research Council to assess the effects of radiation on humans. [35156]

Mr. Ian Taylor: Since at least 1963, it has been the Medical Research Council's established practice to obtain consent from volunteers, patients or otherwise, and to explain the procedures, in relation to all studies which are not specifically geared to contributing to the benefit of the patient. This includes studies assessing the effects of radiation on humans. The MRC has issued its own statement.

Nuclear Power (Privatisation)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what is his best assessment of the net present value of the seven advanced gas-cooled reactor nuclear plants which are earmarked for privatisation; [35172]

(2) what is his best estimate of the net present value of the Sizewell B nuclear plant; [35171]

(3) what assumptions are built into his assessment of the net present value of the nuclear plants earmarked for privatisation in regard to *(a)* reactor lifetimes, *(b)* average annual load factors, *(c)* future annual savings in operating costs, *(d)* future electricity prices, *(e)* the discount rate for operational cash streams and *(f)* the discount rates for liability cash streams. [35169]

Mr. Eggar: These figures are not available. The prospectus and listing particulars, which it is intended will be issued in advance of the flotation of the company that will own the UK's AGR and PWR power stations, will contain the information needed by potential investors to form a judgement about the value of the business.

Mr. Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the 6 per cent. discount rate in the evaluation of the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle activities by the consultants KPMG in its report prepared for the nuclear review for his Department, at paragraph 3.4.3. [35165]

Mr. Eggar: The 6 per cent. pre-tax is the rate specified by HM Treasury as an appropriate rate to be used for evaluating investment projects for organisations not operating in commercial markets. KPMG considered this at length and concluded that 6 per cent. was an appropriate rate in the medium-term for the purposes of this study.

Child Labour

Mr. Spellar: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what action he proposes to take to prevent imports from countries where child labour is employed. [34272]

Mr. Nelson: The Government are fully committed to international action to stop the exploitation of child labour, but do not believe that preventing imports from countries where it occurs is the answer. The best way of tackling the problem is by raising living standards in developing countries. Restricting imports would be counter-productive, as it would deprive such countries of the income from trade.

Civil Plutonium

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when he plans to publish the 1995 compilation of civil plutonium production and storage figures, and if he will place a copy in the Library. [35158]

Mr. Eggar: The information requested was published on 13 July and copies of the press release have been placed in the Library of the House.

Iran and Iraq (Arms Exports)

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what inquiry he has conducted into whether any United Kingdom bank contravened mandatory UN resolutions by facilitating the export of arms to Iran or Iraq during the period covered by the Scott inquiry *(a)* for profit or *(b)* for any other reasons; and if he will make a statement. [34321]

Mr. Oppenheim *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* There are no mandatory UN resolutions covering the export of arms to Iran and Iraq during the period covered by the Scott inquiry. If the hon. Member has any information concerning a possible breach of export controls, he should inform my Department.

Unfair Dismissal

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months, how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34617]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* One case of unfair dismissal against DTI was concluded in the last 12 months. The case was unsuccessful. Total costs amounted to £5,251.17.

Departmental Staff

Ms Harman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many staff employed in the former Department of Employment as a result of that Department's abolition, *(a)* will be made redundant, *(b)* will take early retirement, *(c)* will be employed on a temporary contract instead of a permanent contract and *(d)* will be employed on a part-time basis instead of a full-time basis, and if he will make a statement. [34659]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The detailed arrangements for the transfer of staff from the former Employment Department to the DTI are under discussion. It is not currently expected that the employment status of the staff concerned will change as a result of the transfer. All DTI posts are subject to regular review in the annual MINIS process.

Minewater Discharges

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list those research projects into the effect of the discharge of minewater which are currently supported by the Natural Environment Research Council; and how much funding the council provides for each project. [33556]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The Plymouth Marine Laboratory—an institute of the Natural Environment Research Council—as apart of its longer-term studies of the Cornish rivers and estuaries is studying metal contamination of estuarine and coastal environments, much of which derives from past local mining activity in south-west England.

No systematic assessment of the environmental impact of coalfield abandonment has been commissioned from the NERC.

Business Links

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what arrangements his Department has considered to respond to the financial collapse of an individual business link. [33277]

Mr. Page *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The DTI has not considered arrangements to respond to the financial collapse of an individual business link because the Department is not aware of any instances where a business link is facing or is likely to face this situation.

Nevertheless I would expect the board of any business link facing or likely to face financial difficulties to consider all the options for continuing to provide business support in its locality, including a reduction in overheads and the potential for increasing income.

My officials would be ready to assist in any such examination.

Indonesia

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what consideration led him to diverge from his policy of not divulging details of export licences granted or applications for export licences in his answer to the hon. Member for Teignbridge (Mr. Nicholls), of 2 March, *Official Report*, column *716*, on the export of armoured vehicles to Indonesia. [35146]

Mr. Oppenheim *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* An exception was made in this case because the Government were satisfied that it was in the public interest to make a statement. The exporter had also made an announcement to the Stock Exchange about this particular contract.

Privatisation (Advisers)

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list those companies providing advice on the privatisation of *(a)* the coal industry, *(b)* the electricity industry and *(c)* the gas industry and the total amounts paid to the date for the advice in each industry. [34643]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The answers are as follows:

(a) Coal

The advisers to the Department of Trade and Industry and the former Department of Energy on coal privatisation were listed in reply to a question from the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent North (Ms Walley) on 21 July 1994, *Official Report*, columns *522-23*.

Total net expenditure on coal privatisation advisers in 1991–1992 to 1993–1994 was £15.8 million. Provisional outturn in 1994–95 was £16.7 million and £4.3 million has been provided for 1995–96.

(b) Electricity

The advisers to the former Department of Energy on privatisation of the electricity supply industry in England and Wales were listed to a question in reply from the hon. member for Holborn and St. Pancras (Mr. Dobson) on 23 January 1992, *Official Report*, columns *281-84*.

Total net expenditure on electricity privatisation advisers to the former Department of Energy was £51.5 million.

(c) Gas

The advisers to the former Department of Energy on gas privatisation were:

N.M. Rothschild

Cazenove

Slaughter and May

Touche Ross

Price Waterhouse

Engage Resource Consultants

The following bodies advised both the former Department of Energy and British Gas:

Goldman Sachs

Wood Gundy

Swiss Bank Corporation

Nomura

Dewe Rogerson

Young and Rubicam

Total net expenditure for gas privatisation advisers was given in a reply to the hon. Member for Neath (Mr. Hain) on 8 December 1993, *Official Report*, column *231*

Digital Television

Mr. Allen: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if it is his policy that additional regulation is needed to ensure fair access to conditional access services. [31915]

Mr. Ian Taylor: At present, conditional access services for subscription or pay television are provided by cable TV operators and by the satellite operator, BSkyB. The activities of these companies in respect of conditional access services are subject to general competition law, as well as conditions contained in the relevant licences issued under the Telecommunications Act 1984. The

Government consider this sufficient to deal with any anti-competitive behaviour which might arise.

The introduction of digital television services will mean a greater role for conditional access services and associated subscriber management systems. The Government are keen to encourage the substantial investment needed to establish digital services in the United Kingdom, and to provide consumers with wider choice of programming.

The Government therefore welcome the agreement reached last week among EC member states on a draft directive on advanced television services. This will allow important technical standards to be established, paving the way for digital services. The directive also contains reference to the regulation of conditional access services, as a result of an amendment proposed by the European Parliament. The Government have secured agreement from all other member states and the Commission to interpretative declarations, making clear that this will provide an appropriate level of regulation for conditional access services—but not transmission networks—without leading to an unwelcome open access requirement, which would deter investment and delay the launch of innovative new services. Definitive versions of these declarations will shortly be released by the Council secretariat, and a copy will then be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Allen: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what the Government are doing to encourage the development of a common digital platform; [31912]

(2) what assessment he has made of *(a)* whether conditional access systems will remain proprietary and *(b)* when a common digital platform will be developed; [31913]

(3) what steps the Government have taken to encourage the major media organisations in the United Kingdom to develop a common digital set-top box as opposed to proprietary systems. [31955]

Mr. Ian Taylor: I am replying to these questions because of my responsibility for policy on broadcasting technology.

The United Kingdom Government have played an active role in bringing into being the European digital video broadcasting project—DVB–a body which now comprises about 150 organisations, including major media organisations in the UK. The DVB has been developing specifications for the transmission and reception of digital television signals, and, as a result, European standards for satellite, cable and terrestrial digital television, based on DVB specifications, have been agreed or are in prospect. The DVB has been successful in ensuring a high degree of commonality in these standards, which will greatly ease the development of set-top boxes designed to receive signals over more than one transmission medium.

The Government have also supported the adoption of a directive on the use of standards for the transmission of television signals. This stipulates that digital television services in the EU use a transmission system which has been standardised. The Government's earlier concerns that European Parliament amendments to this directive would deter investment in digital services have now been met by declarations to be adopted by the Council and Commission.

The directive also follows DVB recommendations on the provision of a common descrambling system in set-top boxes which have conditional access facilities. The DVB recognised that the most practicable way of countering the threat to pay-TV braodcasters' revenues from "piracy" was by using proprietary conditional access systems and have developed a "common interface" which, if fitted to a set-top box, would enable the use to "plug in" additional conditional access systems.

In general, the Government look to private investment to develop future digital conditional access or subscription television systems as part of the more general move by the broadcasting industry to introduce digital television services. Such systems are likely to include a proprietary element.

The Government's policy is to avoid impediments to private sector investment in digital television, whether terrestrial or satellite transmission. The advantages to UK-based industry and to the consumer of an early move to digital television are considerable.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 19 July 1995

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Bosnia

Mr. John Townend: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what will be the monthly cost to the Exchequer of aid and military costs in Bosnia after the full deployment of the rapid reaction force. [34493]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: After the full deployment of the rapid reaction force, the monthly cost to the United Kingdom of our military contributions to UNPROFOR, and our financial contributions to the UNPROFOR budget will be about £26.1 million. Total UK aid for the current financial year is projected to total some £38.5 million.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is his estiamte of the proportion of food and medical supplies used in the recent offensives by Bosnian Muslim Government troops supplied and paid for by the United Nations as humanitarian aid. [35268]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: We have no way of knowing. The food and medical supplies being carried by ODA convoys, which represent a significant proportion of total UN deliveries, are being delivered to their proper destinations. There is no way that the UN can stop legitimate recipients of aid from sharing it with relatives who may also be combatants.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received as to the use of the safe areas in Bosnia by the Bosnian Government for launching attacks against Bosnian Serbs. [36227]

Sir Russell Johnston: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate the European Union has been able to make of civilian casualties in Srebrenica, during the taking of the town by the Bosnian Serbs; [36321]

(2) what information he has about the involvement of the Yugoslav Government in the military activities of the Bosnian Serbs and the Serbs in Krajina; and if he will make a statement. [36320]

Ms Quin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he now has as to the whereabouts and circumstances of those people detained by the Bosnian Serbs in their capture of Srebrenica. [36230]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: I shall write to the hon. Members shortly.

Unfair Dismissal Cases

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against his Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34593]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Two unfair dismissal cases have been brought against the FCO in the last 12 months, neither of which has so far been resolved.

Overseas Development Administration and the Natural Resources Institute

There were no unfair dismissal cases brought against the ODA in the last 12 months. The Natural Resources Institute chief executive will write direct to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Redundancies

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34595]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

In the year 1994–95 there no redundancies.

Overseas Development Administration and the Natural Resources Institute.

In the year 1994–95 there were 49 redundancies, all compulsory, at a total cost of £1,311,335.

Kashmir

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is his Department's policy in respect of issuing guidance to British tourists visiting Kashmir; if the two Britons held captive recently in Kashmir received such guidance; and what measures have been taken to ensure the safe return of the kidnapped Britons. [35372]

Mr. Hanley: We have advised visitors not to travel to the states of Jammu and Kashmir for a number of years. The kidnapping of two Britons travelling in Kashmir in 1994 has been pointed out in the travel advice notice for India since it occurred. Travel advice notices are widely distributed throughout the travel industry via electronic information and ticketing systems. They are also available on BBC2 Ceefax and can be accessed on Internet. Advice on travelling to India is available on an automated telephone answering service and members of the public may also contact the FCO's travel advice unit direct

between 09.30 and 16.00 hours Monday to Friday. We do not know whether the two Britons being held in Kashmir received advice not to travel there. We are co-operating closely with the Indian and other Governments concerned to secure the early and safe release of the hostages. We will continue to work, largely behind the scenes, through contacts with all those we think may be able to help resolve this situation.

Mr. Max Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make further inquiries to ascertain the timetable for the introduction by the Government of Azad-Kashmir of an ordinance whereby those held in prison for two years without trial may apply for release; and if he will make a statement. [36262]

Mr. Hanley: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman shortly.

English Language Training

Mr. Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is the total value of funding for English language training in eastern Europe which has been dispensed by Her Majesty's Government to the British Council; what proportion of these resources has been used to finance facilities of services directly managed by the British Council; and what proportion has been put out for competitive tender to other private sector commercial firms or suppliers in the years 1991–92, 1992–93, 1993–94 and 1994–95. [35623]

Mr. Hanley: The council's grant-in-aid from the FCO was enhanced from 1991–92 to support a co-ordinated strategy to promote English teaching and learning in central and eastern Europe. The total operational funding over the period 1991–92 to 1993–94 was £12.2 million. Funding was at a similar level in 1994–95 but detailed figures are not yet available. This initiative supports 43 resource centres, maintains 120 specialist posts in 98 key ministries, reaches 37,000 teachers of English, and supports 400 senior English language professionals.

The council has additionally managed know-how fund projects to a total value of £700,000 over the period and administered English language teaching for the armed forces of 13 countries on behalf of the FCO to a value of £350,000.

Forty per cent. of total expenditure in 1991–92 to 1993–94 consisted of the appointment on contract of freelance ELT specialists.

Activity worth £3.17 million was subcontracted through open tendering. The council estimate that up to 85 per cent. of all grant-in-aid expenditure was devoted to the procurement of British goods and services, particularly books, training and freelance support.

Civil Service

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35457]

Mr. Hanley: The numbers of permanent industrial and non-industrial staff in the FCO on 1 April 1995 were:

	Male Full time	*Male Part Time*	*Female Full time*	*Female Part time*
Open Structure				
HCS1A	1	—	—	—
HCS2	1	—	—	—
HCS3	12	—	—	—
HCS4	1	—	—	—
HCS5	55	—	11	2
HCS6	69	—	8	—
HCS7	252	8	48	1
Occupational Groups				
SEO	80	1	19	2
HEO(D)	6	—	1	—
HEO	163	—	71	6
AT	2	—	1	—
EO	223	—	174	24
AO	335	4	414	36
AA	45	—	42	2
Senior Economic Assistant	13	—	2	—
Economic Assistant	5	—	—	—
Senior Assistant Statistician	1	—	1	—
Senior Information Officer	5	—	7	—
Information Officer	19	—	18	—
Assistant Information Officer	3	—	8	—
Senior Librarian	2	—	3	—
Librarian	3	—	5	—
Assistant Librarian	8	—	14	1
Museum D	—	—	2	—
Museum E	1	—	1	—
Higher Mapping and Charter Officer	1	—	—	—
Mapping and Charter Officer	1	—	—	—
Senior P and T Officer	43	—	1	—
Higher P and T Officer	44	—	1	—
P and T Officer	17	—	—	—
Technical Grade 1	6	—	—	—
Higher Graphics Officer	1	—	—	—
Graphics Officer	1	—	—	—
Senior Research Officer (S)	12	—	5	1
Typing Manager	—	—	8	—
Senior Personal Secretary	—	—	4	—
Personal Secretary	—	—	117	13
Typist	—	—	59	9
Senior Scientific Officer	45	—	16	1
Higher Scientific Officer	34	—	10	1
Scientific Officer	19	—	10	1
Assistant Scientific Officer	6	—	8	1
Catering Manager 1	1	—	—	—
Catering Manager 2	1	—	—	—
Catering Manager 3	4	—	—	—
Chef 2	3	—	—	—
Senior Photo Officer	1	—	—	—
Higher Photo Officer	1	—	—	—
PGSB	2	—	—	—
PGSC	5	—	—	—
PGSD	8	—	—	—
PGSE	5	—	—	—
Stores Officer B	1	—	—	—
Stores Officer C	2	—	2	—
Stores Officer D	6	—	—	—
Support Manager 1	2	—	—	—
Support Manager 2	3	—	5	—
Support Manager 3	18	—	9	—
Support Grade B1	101	—	54	2
Support Grade B2	151	4	80	22
Senior Telecom Tech. Officer	10	—	—	—
Higher Telecom Tech. Officer	22	—	1	—
Telecom Tech. Officer	47	—	1	—
Assistant Telecom Tech. Officer	72	—	5	—

	Male Full time	Male Part Time	Female Full time	Female Part time
Departmental Groups				
Diplomatic Service 1	10	—	—	—
Diplomatic Service 2	26	—	1	—
Diplomatic Service 3	102	—	4	—
Diplomatic Service 4	259	—	12	—
Diplomatic Service 5	390	1	54	3
Diplomatic Service 6	216	—	34	—
Diplomatic Service 7M	352	—	90	4
Diplomatic Service 7D	87	—	27	—
Diplomatic Service 8	22	—	10	—
Diplomatic Service 9	419	—	356	10
Diplomatic Service 10	216	—	125	—
Executive Assistant	16	—	29	—
Legal Adviser	1	—	—	—
Second Legal Adviser	1	—	—	—
Deputy Legal Adviser	2	—	—	—
Legal Counsellor	6	—	4	—
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser	4	—	4	—
Assistant Legal Adviser	3	—	2	—
Chief Security Officer	38	—	—	—
Security Officer	135	—	2	—
Medical Officer	5	—	1	—
Nurse	—	—	4	—
Senior Lecturer	3	—	6	—
Senior Field Invest. Officer	1	—	—	—
Field Invest. Officer	13	—	2	—
Translator 1	1	—	—	—
Translator 2	1	—	2	3
Translator 3	1	—	1	—
Queens Messenger	26	—	—	—
Queens Messenger Escort	2	—	—	—
Senior Cypher Supervisor	3	—	—	—
Cypher Supervisor	16	—	—	—
Cypher Supervisor	37	—	1	—
Telecom and Cypher Officer	92	—	6	—
Operator Technician	1	—	—	—
Conference Adviser	1	—	1	—
Sensitivity Reviewer	6	—	—	—
Research Coun.	2	—	—	—
Senior Prin. Research Coun.	9	—	3	—
Prin. Research Officer	17	1	10	1
Senior Research Officer	7	1	6	—
Research Officer	2	—	1	—
Diplomatic Service 8 Comm.	10	—	—	—
Diplomatic Service 9 Comm.	5	—	—	—
Diplomatic Service 5 Tech.	1	—	—	—
Diplomatic Service 6 Tech.	10	—	—	—
Diplomatic Service 7 Tech.	66	—	—	—
Diplomatic Service 8 Tech.	85	—	1	—
Diplomatic Service 9 Tech.	31	—	—	—
Diplomatic Service Secretary 1	—	—	120	1
Diplomatic Service Secretary 2	1	—	428	3
Industrial	—	—	1	—
Totals	4,759	20	2,594	150

EU Foreign Policy

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will veto the proposed appointment of an EC foreign affairs supremo to promote an EC foreign policy. [35196]

Mr. David Davis: The Government will oppose any measures that have the effect of undermining the principle of intergovernmentalism in the conduct of the EU's common foreign and security policy—CFSP. Any proposals to appoint a senior figure to promote CFSP would need to be judged in this light. Responsibility for the formulation and execution of EU foreign policy is and must remain a matter for EU member states.

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35674]

Mr. Hanley: The FCO is committed to equality of opportunity for all its employees. Women make up 35 per cent. of non-industrial civil servants employed by the FCO and the proportion of women is increasing at all management levels. The proportion of women at executive officer level—first management level—has increased from 30 per cent. in 1985 to cover 44 per cent. in 1995. Numbers of women at DS5—middle management level—have risen by 30 per cent. in the last four years. There are six female heads of mission.

The FCO has an active programme of measures to encourage promotion of women into senior grades.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the number and percentages of these staff that are women, in his Department and each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [35663]

Mr. Hanley: The information requested by the hon. Member for 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 is as follows:

	1992	1993	1994	1995
Men	5,302	5,157	4,851	4,759
Women	2,988	2,907	2,754	2,595
Total	8,290	8,064	7,605	7,354

The information for 1985–1991 is not available.

	1992		
	Total	Women	Percentage of women
Open structure			
Grade 1	1	0	0
Grade 2	1	0	0
Grade 3	10	0	0
Grade 4	1	0	0
Grade 5	58.5	11	19
Grade 6	90	9	10
Grade 7	327.5	16.5	5
Total open structure	489	36.5	7
Administrative group			
Senior Executive Officer	97.5	21.5	22
Higher Executive Officer (D)	8	3	38
Higher Executive Officer	217	52	24
Administration Trainee	1	1	100
Executive Officer	435	181.5	42
Administrative Officer	753	463	61
Administrative Assistant	150.5	64	43
Total administrative group	1,662	786	47
Diplomatic service			
DS1–3	149	5	3
DS4	280	8	3

1992

	Total	Women	Percentage of women
DS5	456	51	11
DS6	280	30	11
DS7M	425	79	19
DS7D	121	39	32
DS8	42	13	31
DS9	789	379	48
DS10	573	233	41
Total Diplomatic service	3,115	837	27
Economist Group	14	3	21
Information Officer Group	54	32	59
Librarian Group	29	20	69
P and T Group and related grades	116	4	3
Secretarial Group	231.5	230.5	100
Support grades	600.5	266.5	44
Other groups and grades	1,979	772.5	39
Total	8,290	2,988	36

Part time staff counted as half in 1992.

1993

	Total	Women	Percentage of women
Open structure			
Grade 1	1	0	0
Grade 2	2	0	0
Grade 3	12	1	8
Grade 4	2	0	0
Grade 5	80	6	8
Grade 6	92	8	9
Grade 7	309	24	8
Total open structure	498	39	8
Administrative group			
Senior executive officer	91	18	20
Higher executive officer (D)	9	3	33
Higher executive officer	242	75	31
Executive officer	461	204	44
Administrative officer	724	442	61
Administrative assistant	130	63	48
Total administrative group	1,657	805	49
Diplomatic service			
DS1–3	139	4	3
DS4	265	11	4
DS5	432	54	12
DS6	262	31	12
DS7M	428	94	22
DS7D	112	36	32
DS8	57	9	16
DS9	790	395	50
DS10	445	184	41
Total diplomatic service	2,930	818	28
Economist group	15	1	7
Information officer group	59	37	63
Librarian group	32	26	81
P and T group and related grades	132	3	2
Secretarial group	243	242	100
Support grades	617	258	42
Other groups and grades	1,881	678	36
Total	8,064	2,907	36

1994

	Total	Women	Percentage of Women
Open Structure			
Grade 1	1	0	0
Grade 2	2	0	0
Grade 3	11	1	9
Grade 4	5	0	0
Grade 5	69	10	14
Grade 6	93	9	10
Grade 7	317	28	9
Total open structure	498	48	10
Administrative Group			
Senior Executive Officer	94	22	23
Higher Executive Officer (D)	7	0	0
Higher Executive Officer	229	51	22
Administration Trainee (HEO)	1	1	100
Executive Officer	335	201	60
Administrative Officer	713	427	60
Administrative Assistance	108	48	44
Total administrative group	1,487	750	50
Diplomatic service			
DS1-3	145	5	3
DS4	275	10	4
DS5	442	56	13
DS6	273	29	11
DS7M	418	98	23
DS7D	123	38	31
DS8	45	13	29
DS9	794	399	50
DS10	558	227	41
Total diplomatic service	3,073	875	28
Economist Group	25	6	24
Information officer group	62	36	58
Librarian group	34	27	79
P and T group and related grades	121	3	2
Secretarial Group	251	251	100
Support Grades	534	207	39
Other groups and grades	1,520	551	36
Total	7,605	2,754	36

1995

	Total	Women	Percentage of women
Open structure			
Grade 1A	1	0	0
Grade 2	1	0	0
Grade 3	12	0	0
Grade 4	1	0	0
Grade 5	68	13	19
Grade 6	91	8	9
Grade 7	301	43	14
Total open structure	475	64	13
Administrative group			
Senior executive officer	101	21	21
Higher executive officer (D)	7	1	14
Higher executive officer	240	74	31
Administration trainee (HEO)	3	1	33
Executive officer	421	198	47
Administrative officer	786	450	57
Administrative assistant	89	44	49
Total administrative group	1,647	789	48

1995

	Total	Women	Percentage of women
Diplomatic service			
DS1–3	143	5	3
DS4	271	12	4
DS5	446	57	13
DS6	250	34	14
DS7M	446	94	21
DS7D	114	27	24
DS8	32	10	31
DS9	785	366	47
DS10	341	125	37
Executive assistant	45	29	64
Total diplomatic service	2,873	759	26
Economist group	20	2	10
Information officer group	60	33	55
Librarian group	36	23	64
P and T group and related grades	112	2	2
Secretarial group	199	199	100
Support grades	448	172	38
Other groups and grades	1,484	552	37
Total	7,354	2,595	35

Filipinos

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Filipino wives of United Kingdom husbands applied from Manila for settlement visas in the United Kingdom in *(a)* 1992, *(b)* 1993 and *(c)* 1994; and how many were refused. [35659]

Mr. Hanley: The information is not available in the form requested .

Application for settlement visas were received in Manila as follows:

	Received	Refused
1992	917	359
1993	702	321
1994	807	257

These will include applications from wives and other settlement categories.

Mr. Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the number of refusals of applications for permanent settlement made from Manila is in line with refusals from other overseas posts. [35660]

Mr. Hanley: The settlement refusal rate for Manila in 1994 was 31.8 per cent. The global average was 21.6 per cent. and the average for south east Asia was 18.4 per cent.

Entry Clearance

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what monitoring of overseas posts takes place by his Department to ensure that particular posts are not refusing abnormally large numbers of applicants for either visitors' visas or permanent settlement visas. [35658]

Mr. Hanley: Statistics on both settlement and non-settlement entry clearance applications are monitored closely by the migration and visa department. Refusal rates are included in these statistics, which are published annually in the "Command Paper on Immigration Statistics". Applicants refused entry clearance for settlement or other long-term categories have a right of appeal to the independent appellate authorities. Entry clearance refusals in categories which no longer have a right of appeal following passage of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act, 1993 are reviewed, in all cases, by entry clearance managers in posts. Additionally a scientifically random sample of those refusals is reviewed by Dame Elizabeth Anson, the independent monitor of entry clearance refusals, who will present her next report in November.

World Conference on Women

Mr. Tony Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what will be the membership and leadership of the Government's delegation to the fourth world conference on women in Beijing; [35760]

(2) if the Government will support paragraph 97 of the draft platform of action at the fourth world conference on women in Beijing; [35761]

(3) if the Government will support the draft programme of action at the fourth world conference on women in Beijing that there should be equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, with particular reference to *(a)* full respect for physical and mental integrity, *(b)* mutual respect and *(c)* shared responsibility for sexual behaviour. [35762]

Mr. David Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if his Department will guarantee the safety of those attending the UN conference on women in Beijing; and if he will make a statement; [36084]

(2) if he will make a statement on the US State Department's policy that they are unable to guarantee the safety of US citizens attending the UN conference on women in Beijing; [36085]

(3) what assessment he has made of the threats by Sweden and Norway to boycott the UN International Women's Conference in Beijing. [36106]

Sir Nicholas Bonsor: I shall write to the hon. Gentlemen shortly.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps Her Majesty's Government will take to support and assist the resumption of the peace process in Sri Lanka; [35966]

(2) if it is his policy to support a permanent ceasefire between the Sri Lanka Government and the Tamil Tigers; [35959]

(3) how much military assistance and training have been given to the Sri Lankan Government in the last year; [35964]

(4) if he will make a statement on the breakdown of the ceasefire in Sri Lanka; [35957]

(5) if he will make a statement on British Sri-Lankan relations; [35967]

(6) what steps her Majesty's Government are taking to press for a peaceful solution to the war in Sri Lanka; [35963]

(7) when the British ambassador to Sri Lanka or other British diplomats last visited Jaffna; [35958]

(8) what representations have been made to the Government of Sri Lanka about human rights abuse in Sri Lanka in the last year. [35965]

Mr. Hanley: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman shortly.

China (Human Rights)

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what advice he will give to British citizens planning to attend the UN conference on women in Beijing with regard to their personal safety if they are known to have been critical of China's human rights record; [36086]

(2) what advice his Department has issued in the last 10 years to British citizens, who are known to have been critical of China's human rights record, or human rights activists, when travelling to China. [36087]

Mr. Hanley: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman shortly.

Mrs. Resham Bi

Mr. Max Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a decision is to be taken by the post in Islamabad on the application to enter the United Kingdom by Mrs. Resham Bi (Ref.IMM/C2414); and if he will make a statement. [36266]

Mr. Hanley: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman shortly.

Mr. Ghazanfer Ali

Mr. Max Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request the post in Islamabad to arrange to visit Mr. Ghazanfer Ali, a prisoner in Mirpur district prison, who has been admitted to a local hospital. [36265]

Mr. Hanley: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman shortly.

Iraq (UNSCOM Report)

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British companies have been referred to in the UNSCOM report. [36328]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Lady shortly.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many prosecutions of British companies are pending subsequent to the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq—UNSCOM—report [36329]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: I have been asked to reply.

I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy in the Library.

Wrong Doing

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 17 July, what is his definition of wrong doing. [36375]

Mr. David Davis: I shall write to the hon. Lady shortly.

Foreign Affairs Council

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council. [36380]

Mr. David Davis: The Council opened with a general debate on the presidency's programme for their term of office. My right hon. and learned Friend the Secretary of State made a statement, the text of which is available in the Library of the House.

The A points listed in document 8853/95, which will be deposited in the Library of the House as soon as it is available, were adopted unanimously.

The Council took note of the European Parliament resolutions in documents 8507/95 (PE-RE 49) and 8160/95 (PE-RE 45). Copies of these documents will be deposited in the Library of the House as soon as they are received.

Members of the Council acting as an inter-governmental conference reappointed six judges and replaced one judge on the court of first instance.

The EU/Tunisia Euro-Mediterranean Association agreement and the EC/Vietnam co-operation agreement were signed in the margins of the Council.

The proposed EU/Croatia trade and co-operation agreement was referred to COREPER for further work.

On Bosnia, future aid requirements were discussed, and Council conclusions agreed.

The EC/Russia interim agreement was signed in the margins of the Council.

Second meetings of association councils with Hungary and Poland took place. Discussions in both focused on the pre-accession process.

Agreement was reached on terms for concluding the negotiations with Israel for a new agreement with the EU.

The Commission gave a brief progress report on the negotiations for new agreements with Morocco and Egypt.

The Council confirmed the appointment of Mr. Carl Lidbom, a former Swedish Minister, as head of the EU electoral unit for the Palestinian elections.

The Commission presented a communication on the future of EU/Cuba relations, which was remitted to COREPER for further work.

The presidency reported on an informal trilogue that had taken place on 12 July between themselves, the Commission, and the European Parliament.

The Council agreed that the presidency should acknowledge the requests for accession by Romania and Slovakia.

The Council reached agreement in principle on a proposal to provide food aid to certain Republics of the Former Soviet Union.

The Commission reported that it was working on a communication on EU/US relations, to be delivered at the October Council.

The Council agreed conclusions on export credits which envisage a substantive debate at the October Council.

Agreement was reached in principle on the EURATOM/US agreement on nuclear trade.

Finally, the Council agreed unanimously that the Commission should pursue an interim agreement in the WTO financial services negotiations.

A copy of the Council conclusions will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as they are received by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Embassies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 6 July, *Official Report,* column *326,* if he will provide a breakdown of the figures for vehicles bought for posts abroad, specifying where possible the post and type of vehicle. [34290]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* A list broken down by post and type, showing FCO, including ODA, purchases of official vehicles over the last five financial year is being placed in the House Library.

PRIME MINISTER

Michael John Smith

Mr. Blair: To ask the Prime Minister if he has received the report of the Security Commission on the case of Michael John Smith. [36331]

The Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Lord President announced on 11 January 1994 that after consultation with the late leader of the Opposition, I had asked the Security Commission to investigate the circumstances in which breaches of security had, or might have, occurred arising out of the case of Michael John Smith, who was convicted on 18 November 1993 of offences under section 1 of the Official Secrets Act 1911; and to advise in the light of that investigation whether any change in security arrangements was necessary or desirable.

An appeal by Smith against his conviction was dismissed by the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) on 8 June 1995, but his appeal against sentence was allowed and the sentence was reduced from 25 years to 20 years. The Commission has now submitted its report to me and it is being published this afternoon as a Command Paper, with the exception of some technical and procedural details which it would not be in the public interest to publish on national security grounds. I am most grateful to the Chairman, Lord Lloyd, and to Sir John Blelloch, Sir Derek Boorman and Lord Tombs.

The Commission has fully examined the period of Smith's career in defence-related work. The Commission was critical of the initial failure by the Security Service to match Smith's record as a communist with his application for security clearance at EMI in 1976. The Commission felt that there was an unwarranted delay between Smith's identification as a potential threat and these facts being communicated to the Ministry of Defence and Smith's employer. It was concerned about the Security Service's eventual decision to relax its recommendations about Smith when he was put forward for clearance for work at GEC in 1986. It was also unhappy with the way in which the Ministry of Defence agreed to Smith having access to confidential information at GEC.

However, the Commission recognises that much has changed since these events took place. The threat from subversive organisations is much lower. The Soviet Union and the Warsaw pact no longer exist. In addition, the Commission has been called upon to investigate a number of other security breaches since 1978 when Smith's clearance was withdrawn and its recommendations have led to significant improvements in the areas of vetting, and more widely, in the field of protective security. Over the same period, Government Departments have also taken initiatives to improve protective security practices. In the light of all this, the Commission has made a number of recommendations. These, in summary, are:

(a) that the Security Service should continue to keep its organisation and internal lines of communication under review;

(b) that in cases where candidates lie during the security clearance procedure there should be a very strong presumption against the granting or reinstatement of a clearance;

(c) that an interview with a subject should be used where appropriate to resolve doubts about a security clearance;

(d) that the written levels of assessment of an individual should be unambiguous and that all relevant information should be made available to the relevant Government Department before a decision is made on an individual clearance;

(e) that decisions on the clearance of individuals working on contracts involving access to protectively marked assets in an industrial concern should be taken by Government Departments only after appropriate consultation with the employer;

(f) that levels of access granted to individuals in industry should be clear and capable of effective implementation;

(g) that in any case where a security clearance is subject to any limitation, that individual's behaviour and performance should be monitored and reviewed regularly by the Security Service with the employing company;

(h) that judgements based on experience should not be given excessive credence in work of the Security Service; and

(i) that appeal arrangements against a decision to withhold or limit clearance both in the civil service and in industry may need to be strengthened.

The recommendations of the Security Commission have been accepted in principle by the Government subject to further consideration of some detailed points: and work is now in hand to ensure that they are effectively implemented within government and in industry.

I announced to the House on 15 December 1994 that following a comprehensive review of protective security arrangements generally, a new system for the security vetting of Government employees and contractors would be introduced from 1 January 1995. This will provide the opportunity to consider how best to implement the recommendations of the Security Commission.

Exchange Rate Mechanism

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what considerations led to the policy he adopted towards the ERM in October 1990. [35260]

The Prime Minister: The decision to participate in the ERM from October 1990 was taken in order to reinforce the Government's counter-inflationary policy at that time.

Consultants

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopes and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and (i) Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33910]

The Prime Minister: None.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department by *(a)* number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available; [33442]

(2) how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has a been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33568]

The Prime Minister: For this purpose my office is part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service, on 18 July.

'Mr. Milburn: To ask the Prime Minister which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33931]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* For this purpose, my office is part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service on Monday 17 July, *Official Report*, column *903*.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34696]

The Prime Minister: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the UK economy and aim to help them by providing sound economic conditions—keeping inflation and interest rates low; reducing legislative, administrative and taxation burdens; and where appropriate provide direct assistance in the forms of specialist advice and support and easing access to finance.

The recently announced White Paper "Forging Ahead" outlines a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

Specific measures to assist small firms are the responsibility of my right hon. Friends, the President of the Board of Trade, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Wales. For details of specific programmes, I refer the hon. Member to their replies today.

Mr. Ghanzanfer Ali

Mr. Madden: To ask the Prime Minister if he will urge the Government of Azad-Kashmir to release from Mirpur district prison Mr. Ghanzanfer Ali to obtain medical treatment in the United Kingdom. [36263]

The Prime Minister: Ghanzanfer Ali was admitted to a civil hospital in Mirpur 10 days ago. Our High Commission in Islamabad is obtaining details of his medical condition.

Millennium Commission

Mr. Chris Smith: To ask the Prime Minister in what capacity the membership of the First Secretary of State of the Millennium Commission has now been confirmed. [25710]

The Prime Minister: There has been no change in the status of the First Secretary of State as a member of the Millennium Commission since his appointment by HM the Queen on 17 February 1994.

Scottish Education Department

Mr. John McFall: To ask the Prime Minister what consideration was given to the role of the Scottish Office Education Department during the merger of the Department of Employment and the Department for Education. [34132]

The Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland has ensured that ministerial responsibility for education and training in the Scottish office are combined. In addition, he has agreed with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Employment arrangements to ensure close consultation on labour market issues, including agreement of the annual performance targets for the Employment Service and new initiatives to help unemployed people.

Advertising of Government Posts

Mr. Michael: To ask the Prime Minster if it is his Government's policy to advertise posts in its employ on the basis of offering a salary but inviting applications from those willing to work on a volunteer, unpaid basis. [36605]

The Prime Minister: I have asked my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to write to the hon. Member.

Single Currency

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what considerations underlie his decision to hold open the possibility of the United Kingdom accepting a single currency in the future. [35204]

The Prime Minister: I believe that we should judge whether or not to join a single currency on the basis of our national interest, given the circumstances of the time. We do not know what those future circumstances might be. It is therefore too early for us to make a decision one way or the other. Furthermore, as I told the House on 28 June, *Official Report*, columns *893–94*, I believe that it is essential for this country to participate fully in the debate over economic and monetary union, to make our practical views count and to stand up for our interests in Europe. We would forfeit our influence over the debate if we exercised our opt-out now. That would not be in our interests.

Computer Equipment and Consultancies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Prime Minister (1) if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received; [34549]

(2) which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department or its agencies over the last five years, indicating the number of contracts per firm; [33929]

(3) how much his Department or its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33930]

The Prime Minister *[holding answers Wednesday 12 July and Friday 14 July]:* For this purpose my office is part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service, on 18 July.

Honours (Civil Service Secretaries)

Mr. Berry: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many honours in the birthday list were awarded to personal secretaries in the civil list; [34390]

(2) how many honours in the birthday list were awarded to *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* local government officials, *(c)* local authority councillors and *(d)* police officers. [34391]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer Monday 17 July 1995]:* My recommendations for the birthday honours list contained 1,055 names. Of these 434 were given specifically for their voluntary service, and many others had also given voluntary service which supported their other claims. The list included 10 personal secretaries in the civil service out of a total of 171 civil servants at all grades, including many working for agencies. The list also included 11 local government officials, 13 local authority councillors and 28 police officers.

Arms Sales (Iraq and Iran)

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Prime Minister if any United Kingdom bank involved in the sale of arms to Iran or Iraq during the Scott inquiry acted during that time in the service of Her Majesty's Government; and in what capacity. [34320]

The Prime Minister: *[holding answer Friday 14 July 1995]:* I am not aware of any such involvement. If the right hon. Member has any relevant information on this subject he will wish to make it available to the appropriate authorities.

TREASURY

Friendly Societies

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many friendly societies have closed recently and how many of the closures were attributed to the regulatory requirements imposed by the Financial Services Act 1986. [34402]

Mrs. Angela Knight: So far this year, to June 1995, 10 societies have closed. Two of these were LAUTRO members and therefore subject to the regulatory requirements of the Financial Services Act regime. The reasons for closure are for the societies themselves to determine.

Trade Deficit

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the reasons for the change in the deficit on visible trade in the six months to April and of the likely effect on output, employment and investment in United Kingdom manufacturing; and if he will make a statement. [35197]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The Government's latest assessment of the factors affecting the visible trade deficit was given in chapter 1 of the Treasury's summer economic forecast, published on 28 June 1995. Net trade directly accounted for over half of the growth of GDP in the year to the first quarter of 1995. It is not possible to isolate the overall effects of trade performance on output, employment and investment.

Monetary and Exchange Rate Policies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the likely effect of his monetary and exchange rate policies on output, employment and investment in the manufacturing industry in 1996–97. [35199]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The Government's macroeconomic policies are designed to maintain a stable macroeconomic environment and strengthen the long-term performance of the economy and outlook for jobs, in order to promote rising prosperity based on sustained economic growth.

Trade Balance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the fall in the rate of exchange against the ecu which would be required to eliminate the visible trade deficit with EEC countries within a period of 12 months. [35201]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The balance of trade with the EU depends on a variety of factors, including competitiveness. The key to sustained gains in competitiveness is control over costs, and policies directed at permanently low inflation and competitive markets provided the best environment in which to achieve this. A policy of deliberate devaluation would only raise inflation and be damaging to long-run economic performance.

Chemical Industry

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made for the reasons for the difference between the rate of return in the United Kingdom chemical industry and that in other industrial countries. [35203]

Mrs. Angela Knight: There are no internationally comparable official figures available on the rates of return specific to the chemical industry in the United Kingdom and other industrial countries.

Company Returns

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will list for the UK, Germany and the USA the pre-tax rates of return for manufacturing and non-financial corporations in each year since 1980; [35360]

(2) what has been the rate of return on manufacturing since 1970 *(a)* in the United Kingdom and *(b)* in other main industrial countries. [35256]

Mrs. Angela Knight: Information on United Kingdom net rates of return for manufacturing companies since 1970 is available from the CSO's shared database, which can be accessed through the Library of the House. Latest data were published on 11 July 1995 in the CSO "First Release" on 'Profitability of UK Companies' (CSO (95) 136). Information on rates of return in other main industrial countries since 1970 is published in Table 14 of the OECD's "National Accounts, Volume II".

Interest Rates

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what has been the accuracy of Bank of England forecasts of the effect on the balance of trade of increases in real interest rates over the past 12 months; [35257]

(2) what has been the accuracy of *(a)* the Bank of England and *(b)* the Treasury forecast of the effect on output and employment of the changes of interest rates of the last 12 months. [35258]

Mrs. Angela Knight: Forecasts of output, employment and the balance of trade depend on many factors. It is not possible to isolate the effect of changes in interest rates.

Visible Trade Balance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the effect of monetary policy *(a)* in the last two years and *(b)* since the summer of 1994 on the visible trade balance. [35259]

Mrs. Angela Knight: It is not possible to isolate with any confidence the effects on the visible trade balance stemming from monetary policy. However, the Government's commitment to deliver permanently low inflation will provide a stable climate within which British industry can compete successfully, in both world and domestic markets.

EU Common Currency

Mr. Mills: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement about the targets agreed for timing of a common currency for European Union members after the recent EU conference. [30642]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I refer my hon. Friend to the remarks made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 28 June, during his statement to the House on the meeting of the European Council in Cannes, *Official Report*, columns *893–909*.

Minimum Wage

Mr. William Powell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what calculations he has made on the implications for public expenditure if a national minimum wage of *(a)* £3 per hour, *(b)* £3.50 per hour and, *(c)* £4 per hour, *(d)* £4.50 per hour and *(e)* £5 per hour were to be introduced on 1 September and for the fiscal year 1996–97; and if he will make a statement. [32872]

Mr. Waldegrave: A national minimum wage would destroy private sector jobs, leading to an increase in public expenditure on social security benefits for the unemployed. In the public sector, aggregate control of running costs in the civil service and our wider approach to pay means that higher spending on pay would have to be offset by spending cuts elsewhere.

Single Currency

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to what extent he was consulted by the European Commission about the contents of the Green Paper on the practical arrangements for the introduction of the single currency prior to its publication on 31 May. [33530]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The European Commission's Green Paper was discussed at ECOFIN on 22 May.

Mr. Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants are seconded to work with the European Commission on single currency issues. [33529]

Mrs. Knight: As of 3 July 1995 there was one United Kingdom civil servant seconded to the European Commission and working in Directorate-General II, Economic and Financial Affairs, the responsibilities of which include work on economic and monetary union.

Consultancies

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33450]

Mrs. Angela Knight: Information prior to 1991 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information for 1991 to date is as follows:

	£000
1991–92	8 891
1992–93	1,429
1993–94	5,019
1994–95	4,500

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33499]

Mrs. Knight: I regret that information prior to 1991 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The table gives the number and value of consultancy contracts awarded by HM Treasury by financial year from 1991–92 to 1994–95. In addition the Department has also incurred expenditure on professional fees in connection with the privatisation programme. These are shown separately.

	Consultancy contracts		*Privatisation contracts*	
Year	*Number of contracts*	*Value (excluding VAT) £000*	*Number of contracts*	*Value (excluding VAT) £000*
1991–92	14	'258	10	8,891
1992–93	92	1,029	14	1,429
1993–94	70	1,404	12	5,019
1994–95	37	997	13	4,500

' August–March.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which firms of consultants employed by his Department over the last year have been paid more than £1,000 per day. [33869]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The information requested is not held in a form that is readily accessible and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33431]

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries and *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and *(i)* Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market-testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33917]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I regret that is has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Members shortly and place a copy of the letters in the Library.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years; [33864]

(2) which firms have won computer consultancy contracts from his Department and its agencies over the last five years; and what is the number of contracts per firm. [33896]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* Details of consultancy contracts are held on the Treasury contracts database. But as the database cannot identify computer consultancy separately, the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Capital Gains

Mr. Denzil Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what would be the total cost in a full year of charging individuals, companies and trusts at the rate of 25 per cent. on their capital gains while increasing the annual gross exemption and the chattels exemption to £10,000 in all cases. [34209]

Mr. Jack: The cost of charging individuals, companies and trusts at the rate of 25 per cent. on their capital gains while increasing the annual exempt amount for individuals to £10,000 and trusts to half this amount is estimated to be £450 million for 1996–97 liabilities, rising to £700 million in a full year in the medium term. It is not possible to estimate the cost of increasing the chattels exemption to £10,000, but this is likely to be very small in comparison with the figures of £450 million or £700 million.

Estimates given take account of the likely effect of changes on the volume of disposals in a full year, caused by changes in taxpayers' behaviour.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Denzil Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what would be the total cost in a full year of increasing the nil band of inheritance tax to £250,000, reducing the 40 per cent. band to 25 per cent. and exempting from tax all lifetime gifts except those made within three years of death. [34208]

Mr. Jack: The full year cost in 1996–97, measured against an indexed base, of increasing the inheritance tax threshold to £250,000, reducing the rate of tax from 40 per cent. to 25 per cent., and exempting from tax all lifetime gifts made more than three years before death is estimated to be just over £1 billion.

Machinery and Plant Investment

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for which periods in the last 30 years 100 per cent. capital allowances for investment in machinery and plant have been available. [35070]

Mr. Jack: One hundred per cent. capital allowances were available for expenditure on machinery and plant incurred between 22 March 1972 and 13 March 1984.

One hundred per cent. capital allowances were also available between 27 October 1970 and 21 March 1972 for expenditure on the provision of a new ship or on new non-mobile machinery or plant for use for industrial purposes in a development area or Northern Ireland. The requirement that the machinery or plant had to be used for industrial purposes was removed between 20 July 1971 and 21 March 1972.

One hundred per cent. first year capital allowances were phased out as part of the Government's 1984 business tax reforms. The purpose of these reforms was to create a more neutral tax regime based on significantly lower rates of tax, with allowances for depreciation more closely reflecting useful asset life.

As a result of these reforms, the main rate of corporation tax has been reduced from 45 per cent. to 33 per cent. and the small companies rate is down from 30 per cent. to 25 per cent. since 1984.

EU Unemployment

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what grounds he voted at the Council of Ministers on 10 July for sanctions to be applied to EC states which were not proceeding effectively towards the convergence criteria; what is the current level of unemployment in the states concerned; and what estimate he has made of the effect on unemployment if the convergence criteria were adhered to by the nations concerned. [35187]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The ECOFIN Council on 10 July made confidential recommendations to each of the member states with an excessive deficit. No sanctions have been applied to any member state. Member states which receive support form the cohesion fund and also have an excessive deficit—Greece, Portugal and Spain—may be liable to have their cohesion funding suspended under article 6 of the cohesion fund regulation, but this is a decision for the Commission, not the Council.

The latest OECD standardised estimate of the unemployment rate in Greece in November 1994 is 4.7 per cent., in Portugal in April 1995 is 7.2 per cent., and in Spain in the first quarter of 1995 is 22.8 per cent. The Government believe that the best way to reduce unemployment is by increasing labour market flexibility and creating a stable macro-economic environment. Thus, adhering to the convergence criteria would be consistent with efforts to reduce unemployment in these countries.

Sir Teddy Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the latest estimate of total unemployment within the European Union; and what assessment he has made of the effect on this total of the implementation of the convergence criteria. [35186]

Mr. Waldegrave: The OECD's standardised estimate of the unemployment rate within the European Union in April 1995 is 9.6 per cent. The Government believe that the best way to reduce unemployment is by increasing labour market flexibility and creating a stable macroeconomic environment. The convergence criteria are consistent with the creation of a stable macroeconomic environment.

Firearms

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many firearms which had been purchase abroad were brought into the United Kingdom by private individuals in each year since 1992; and what were their categories, classes and types. [36125]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: I regret that the information is unavailable.

Manual Workers

Mr. Steinberg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the average wage for manual workers in each of the regions of the United Kingdom. [36109]

Mr. Angela Knight: Analysis of average earnings for full-time manual workers in the regions of Great Britain is published in part A, table X5.1 of the "New Earnings Survey" report. Information for part-time manual females within the regions is contained in part F, table 180.1. Copies of the reports are available in the Library.

Labour Statistics

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list *(a)* the percentage of males aged 50 to 65 in full-time employment and *(b)* the percentage of females aged 50 to 60 years in full time employment. [36122]

Mrs. Angela Knight: Over the quarter ending February 1995 56 per cent. of males aged 50 to 65 were in full-time employment compared with 28 per cent. of females aged 50 to 60 years.

Valuation Office

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the three-year review of the Valuation Office as a next steps agency is now complete; and if he will make a statement. [36342]

Mrs. Angela Knight: Following the decision earlier this year that the Valuation Office should continue as a next steps agency in the public sector and within the Inland Revenue, the second and final stage of the three year review of the Valuation Office has been concerned with an evaluation of its performance to date, of the framework within which it operates and of the appropriate senior management structure for it.

The review is now complete. It has found that the Valuation Office has established an impressive track record since its formation as an agency in 1991, successfully completing a number of important operational tasks. The review has identified a number of areas where further improvements would be possible and proposes a comprehensive set of measures to enhance standards of customer service and increase the Valuation Office's overall efficiency and value for money. Details of these are described in an Inland Revenue press release published today.

I congratulate the Valuation Office on its work to date and I welcome and endorse the review's recommendations.

The review has also examined the potential for greater involvement of the private sector in the Valuation Office's work. In the light of this, it is proposed to undertake some carefully controlled experiments to use the private sector on rating and council tax work. The first pilots will take place during the early part of 1996–97. Details of the pilots will be developed in consultation with representatives of the valuation profession, and of other organisations and bodies directly interested.

As a result of a number of recent changes the senior management structure of the Valuation Office has been reduced from 25 posts at 1 January 1994 to 18 now. No further changes are currently proposed but it is planned to invite a non-executive member to join its management board. An appointment will be announced later this year.

No immediate changes to the Valuation Office's financial framework are proposed—but its suitability for establishment as a trading fund will be further considered.

No fundamental changes are proposed to the Valuation Office's operating framework, but some updating of its framework document is desirable. A new edition, together with a summary of the review, will be published later this summer.

There will be a period of consultation with staff and the trade unions to consider the detailed implementation of the proposals.

Tax Changes

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will update the information given in the July 1994 "Tax Ready Reckoner and Tax Reliefs" booklet. [36343]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The Treasury is today publishing a booklet containing estimates of the effects of various illustrative tax changes on tax receipts in 1996–97 and 1997–98 and estimates of the costs of the main tax reliefs in 1994–95 and 1995–96. Copies are being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Debt Management Review

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the outcome of the debt management review. [36381]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The debt management review was announced by the then Minister of State to the Treasury on 10 November 1994. It had the following terms of reference:

> "To review the existing arrangements for the setting of debt management policy, the selling of Government debt and the management of outstanding debt."

The review was conducted by the Treasury and involved an extensive process of consultation. It was conducted in close co-ordination with the Bank of England. The review covered gilt issuance only. It did not cover national savings.

The report of the review which I am today publishing jointly with the Bank of England contains the conclusions of the review and discusses a number of other current developments in the gilts market. In particular, the report outlines a number of proposals which represent a further move to an open, predictable and transparent gilts issuance policy, and which promote the liquidity and efficiency of the gilts market.

The Government and the Bank of England believe that, taken together, these changes will reduce funding costs, to the ultimate benefit of taxpayers. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Oil Installations

Mr. Alistair Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proposals he has to change the taxation of oil companies operating in the North sea; and what proposals he has to alter current rules governing reliefs companies may claim in respect of decommissioning or scrapping of oil installations. [31225]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 28 June 1995]:* A number of structural changes to the rules for petroleum revenue tax were made in 1993 and my right hon. and learned Friend has no proposals for further major changes to that tax. The cost of decommissioning North sea oil installations is one of the costs of extracting oil in the North sea. As it is the profits of North sea oil companies that are taxed, it is right that tax reliefs should be given for relevant decommissioning costs.

Privatisation

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was, for each company privatised since 1979, the highest number on the share register indicating the date, the date of the privatisation and the present size of the share register. [35093]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The current size of individual company share registers is a matter for the companies themselves and their registrars.

Mr. McNamara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list those parts of his Department or departmental agencies which were privatised without an in-house bid; if he will indicate the expertise which was absent in his Department or departmental agencies which prevented an in-house bid taking place; which future parts of his Department or departmental agencies he intends to privatise; and which of them do not have the necessary in-house expertise to mount an in-house bid. [29416]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Departmental Fraud

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to his answer of 14 February, column 576, if he will update the figures on fraud in Government Departments. [35515]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* Departmental returns on frauds and suspected frauds committed by departmental and agency staff in 1994–95, including cases where staff have colluded with outsiders, are being collated at present. The 1994–95 figures are expected to be available in early autumn.

Legislation

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35316]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

Income Tax

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what are his estimates of the number of individuals who paid income tax at a top marginal rate of 40 per cent. or above in each year since 1979–80. [35359]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* Information was given in my reply to the hon. Member on 18 July.

Female Employees

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35461]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The numbers of permanent non-industrial staff on 1 April 1995—before the recent machinery of government changes—for HM Treasury, by grade, on a head count basis were as follows:

	Male		*Female*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Grade 1	1	0	0	0
Grade 1A	2	0	0	0
Chief Accountancy Adviser	1	0	0	0
Grade 2	2	0	0	0
Grade 3	17	0	2	1
Grade 4	1	0	0	0
Grade 5	54	0	10	2
Grade 6	21	0	3	0
Grade 7	123	0	30	6
Graduate Trainee	0	0	2	0
AT/HEO(D)	22	0	9	0
EA	1	0	0	0
Assistant Economist	27	0	6	0
SEO	50	0	14	6
HEO	76	0	42	2
EO	93	1	52	8
HSO	0	0	2	0
SO	1	0	0	0
Assistant Statitician	6	0	3	0
Senior Information Officer	2	0	0	0
Information Officer	0	0	2	0
Senior Librarian	2	0	2	0
Librarian	2	0	2	0
Assistant Librarian	1	0	2	0
AO	91	4	81	5
AA	28	0	31	2
SPS	0	0	19	2
PS	0	0	85	16
Ch Typing Manager	0	0	2	0
Typing Manager	0	0	2	0
Typist	1	0	26	4
Support Grade B1	6	0	15	0
Support Grade B2	16	0	29	1
Support Manager 2	0	0	2	0
Support Manager 3	0	0	2	0
Student	8	0	1	0
Total	653	5	478	55

Taxation (Self-assessment)

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what safeguards exist to ensure that tax details on people about to begin self-assessment tax returns do not fall into the hands of *(a)* General Motors, *(b)* Mr. Ross Perot and *(c)* American-based employees of the EDS computer company. [33524]

Mr. Jack: The Inland Revenue is responsible for the confidentiality of taxpayer records. Under the terms of its IT services contract with EDS Ltd. that company is required to maintain the Department's security and confidentiality standards while the Inland Revenue will monitor performance against those standards.

EDS does not process, handle or store taxpayer information outside the United Kingdom without the Department's consent;

EDS's employees and its agents and subcontractors sign the appropriate statutory undertaking not to disclose taxpayer information;

EDS reminds its employees, agents and subcontractors every six months of their obligations under the non-disclosure arrangements, and monitors compliance.

The Inland Revenue has the following safeguards built into the contract and will regularly inspect to ensure:

EDS reports to Inland Revenue all breaches of undertakings and the disciplinary action taken;

EDS maintains the security standards set out in the Inland Revenue's security manual;

EDS observes any departmental requirement not to use specified individuals on Revenue business;

EDS obtains security clearance for all personnel handling classified information; and

EDS ensures that all persons involved in delivering the Department's business are aware of their obligations under the Official Secrets Act 1911.

Legal sanctions—section 182 of Finance Act 1989, on conviction, a fine or imprisonment or both—apply to unauthorised disclosure of personal tax data whether for civil servant or private sector staff.

Mr. Ross Perot does not own EDS Ltd. It is a subsidiary of a US parent company, EDS Corporation, which is owned by General Motors.

Ms Quin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the job losses envisaged as arising under the system of assessment will be redeployed to the fields of compliance and customer service under the change agreement signed between the Inland Revenue Staff Federation and the department of Inland Revenue; and if he will give the figures *(a)* in total and *(b)* by region and district. [36213]

Mr. Jack: When self-assessment is bedded down the Inland Revenue currently expects to employ around 3,000 fewer staff. This will be achieved only after implementation and is net after the expected deployment of staff into customer service and compliance work.

As the Inland Revenue gains a better understanding of the way self-assessment will work in practice, it is constantly reviewing those net savings. At present, the figures are not sufficiently developed to permit an estimate to be provided on the basis requested.

But in accordance with the change agreement, the Inland Revenue has offered to share the detail of that thinking with the main trade union involved—the Inland

Revenue Staff Federation. The Inland Revenue remain committed to avoiding compulsory redundancies wherever possible.

Ms Quin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what additional costs in excess of original estimates have been incurred in connection with the introduction of self-assessment of taxation. [36219]

Mr. Jack: No additional costs have been incurred to date.

Ms Quin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if his Department expects to have identified every taxpayer to whom self-assessment will apply by the start date for the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [36214]

Mr. Jack: Yes, the Inland Revenue aims to identify all taxpayers to whom self-assessment will apply by the start date of its scheme.

Ms Quin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement as to how the system of self-assessment will comply with the *(a)* compliance, *(b)* cost efficiency, *(c)* customer services and *(d)* caring for staff elements of the taxpayer's charter. [36212]

Mr. Jack: Self-assessment will be a clearer, more straightforward system. It has been designed following extensive consultation so that taxpayers will find it straightforward to understand and easier to meet their obligations. This will reduce costs for both taxpayers and the Revenue, provide a better customer service and improve compliance. The new arrangements will enable the Inland Revenue to focus its staff more on skilled customer service and compliance activity and less on routine processing activity, thereby enriching jobs under self-assessment.

Ms Quin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will publish details of the costs and savings involved in the introduction of self-assessment of taxation; [36217]

(2) if he will make a statement on the overall costs involved in the introduction of self-assessment. [36211]

Mr. Jack: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Ms Quin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what studies his Department has undertaken in the last five years into systems of self-assessment of taxation in other countries. [36211]

Mr. Jack: In preparing for self-assessment the Inland Revenue looked at the experience of the following countries:

Austria
Canada
Denmark
France
Germany
Ireland
Italy
USA

More recently, visits by officials have been made to both Australia and New Zealand. Lessons from the practical experience in these countries has been built into planning for the implementation of self-assessment in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the contracts his Department has with the computer company EDS. [33174]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I regret that information prior to 1991 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. From 1991 onwards the Treasury has had only one contract with EDS for the supply and installation of a memory board.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the expected payment from public funds to the US-based EDS computer firm for running the self-assessment tax system for each year from 1994 to 2005. [33523]

Mr. Jack: The current estimate of the payment form public funds to EDS for developing and running the self-assessment tax system for each year from 1994 to 2005 is, in constant prices:

1994–95: £1 million
1995–96: £15 million
1996–97: £50 million
1997–98: £45 million
1998–99: onwards: £35 million

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what basis the contract for providing the computer service to run the new tax self-assessment scheme was awarded to a foreign company. [33527]

Mr. Jack: The contract to provide all IT services to the Inland Revenue, not just for self-assessment, was awarded as a result of an open competition run under the EC and general agreement on tariffs and trade rules and advertised in the EC *Official Journal*. These rules open up to the bidding for Government contracts on a wide basis. The winner was EDS Ltd., a UK subsidiary of a US parent company, EDS Corporation. The EDS bid was evaluated as providing the Department with the best value for money with potential savings of £225 million over 10 years.

More information on the procurement is available in the National Audit Office report "Inland Revenue—Market Testing the Information Technology Office" which was published on 8 March 1995.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many estates paid inheritance tax in 1992; what was the total amount of tax collected; and if he will show for each decile of tax-paying estates the amount collected. [36121]

Mr. Jack: Available information is in terms of tax liabilities rather than tax collected. The number of inheritance taxpayers—covering both death cases and lifetime gifts—with tax liabilities in 1992–93 and the tax accrual are provisionally estimated at 23,000 and £1.2 billion respectively. The estimated proportions accounted for by each decile of taxpayers—death cases only—are given in the table.

Decile group of taxpayers in terms of tax liabilities Percentage	*Estimated proportion of total liabilities (per cent.)*
Top 10	52
Next 10	17
Next 10	11
Next 10	7
Next 10	5
Next 10	3
Next 10	2
Next 10	2
Next 10	1
Bottom 10	negligible
Total	100

Mr. Macdonald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list in anonymised form all current recipients of inheritance tax relief for natural heritage reasons in respect of land or buildings under sections 30 and 31 of the Inheritance Taxes Act 1984 by *(a)* date first granted and *(b)* amount of relief. [34841]

Mr. Jack: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many taxpayers paid capital gains tax in 1993; what was the total amount of tax collected; and if he will show for each decile of taxpayers the amount collected. [36118]

Mr. Jack: Available information is in terms of tax liabilities rather than tax collected. The number of capital gains taxpayers—covering individuals and trusts—with tax liabilities in 1993–94, and the tax accrual are provisionally estimated at 85,000 and around £1 billion respectively. The estimate proportions accounted for by each decile taxpayers are given in the table.

Decile group of taxpayers in terms of tax liabilities Percentage	*Estimated proportion of total liabilities (per cent.)*
Top 10	79
Next 10	10
Next 10	5
Next 10	3
Next 10	2
Next 10	1
Next 10	1
Next 10	[1] —
Next 10	[1] —
Bottom 10	[1] —
Total	100

[1] Negligible

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact on United Kingdom competitiveness *(a)* the reduction and *(b)* the elimination of United Kingdom capital gains tax. [35804]

Mr. Jack: The Government keep the effect on competitiveness of all taxes under regular review.

Scott Inquiry

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he will take to ensue that Customs and Excise complies with the request from the Scott inquiry to provide copies of the public interest immunity certificates recently signed covering the appeal by the former directors of Ordtec; and if he will make a statement. [36124]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: Customs and Excise sought the advice of the Court of Appeal regarding the request from the Scot inquiry to provide copies of the public interest immunity certificates and is following the guidance of the court which approved its course of action. Customs and Excise will therefore make arrangements for the delivery of the certificates to the Scott inquiry.

Economic Inactivity Rates

Mr. Hain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what are the latest economic inactivity rates for adult males of working age for each United Kingdom region. [35878]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The data requested can be obtained from the labour force survey, a copy of which is available in the Library.

VAT (Public Transport)

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if it is his policy not to remove zero rating of VAT from public transport; and if he will make a statement. [34397]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Offshore Banking

Rev. Martin Smyth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what are the different requirements relating to United Kingdom funds in respect of offshore banking in *(a)* the Mediterranean, *(b)* the Channel Islands and *(c)* the West Indies; and if he will make a statement. [30869]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials to public funds for each year since 1992. [32279]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Spirits (Duty)

Sir David Steel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of whether the rise in duty on spirits imposed in December will deliver the increase in revenue the Treasury expected when it imposed the duty increase; and what estimates he has made of the extent of home releases in the current year. [34638]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the right hon. Member shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Barings Bank

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what questions Jonathan Stone, head of the Barings Bondholder Action Group, has asked the Governor of the Bank of England; and on what grounds they have not been answered; [35482]

(2) what assessment he has made of why the Bank of England, as supervisor of the banking system, did not detect warning signals showing that Barings was facing unsustainable losses of capital before it went into administration. [35481]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Firearms

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many firearms were legally imported in each year since 1992; and what were their categories, classes and types; [36127]

(2) how many firearms are known to have been illegally imported in each year since 1992; and what were their categories, classes and types. [36126]

Mr. Heathcoat Amory: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Taxation

Sir Ralph Howell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what would be the estimated increase in direct taxes, national insurance contributions and indirect taxes if all those currently unemployed were employed and in receipt of *(a)* £120 per week gross of tax and national insurance contributions, *(b)* £140 per week gross and *(c)* £160 per week gross. [36305]

Mr. Jack: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to my hon. Friend shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Mr. Pawsey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what studies his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the correlation between increases in tax rates and falls in tax yields; and if he will make a statement. [32944]

Mr. Jack: There are a large number of studies looking at the link between marginal tax rates, incentives and yields. We keep developments in the field under constant review. This Government's policy is to cut marginal tax rates, when it is prudent to do so, to encourage enterprise and reward innovation. The share of total income tax paid by the highest 10 per cent. of tax payers has risen from 35 per cent. in 1978–79 to 44 per cent. this year.

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate for the 1995–96 fiscal year of the revenue raised from income tax in respect of *(a)* the 20 per cent. rate, *(b)* the 25 per cent. rate and *(c)* the 40 per cent. rate. [35356]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* It is estimated that in 1995–96 total tax liability before allowing for the married couple's allowance and mortgage interest relief at source will be about £14.8 billion at the 20 per cent. rate, £56.3 billion at the 25 per cent. rate and £6.5 billion at the 40 per cent rate.

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what are his estimate of the number of taxpayers with a total taxable income in the fiscal year 1995–96 to include salaries, dividends, interest receivable and pensions, within each band of £1,000 up to £60,000, then £5,000 up to £100,000, then £25,000 up to £200,000, then £50,000, up to £500,000, then £100,000 up to £1 million, and above £1 million. [35516]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* It is to provide reliable estimates in the detail requested. Provisional estimates for 1995–96 of the number of taxpayers analysed by total income for income tax purposes is given in the table.

Range of total income[1] *(lower limit)* £	*Number of taxpayers in 1995–96 thousands*
3,525	1,800
5,000	4,100
7,500	3,800
10,000	6,100
15,000	4,100
20,000	3,700
30,000	1,500
50,000	430
100,000	120
Total	25,700

New Earnings Survey

Mr. Barry Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he will be giving the Department of the Environment about the discussions and meeting the hon. Member for Isle of Wight had with Mr. Orchard about the small database of the new earnings survey on the Isle of Wight and its effect on the area cost adjustment formulae. [35872]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to my hon. Friend shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Capital Taxation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make a statement on *(a)* the social and *(b)* the economic arguments for the abolition of capital taxes; [36222]

(2) what are the implications of the abolition of capital taxes for *(a)* the rate of other taxes, *(b)* benefit levels and *(c)* expenditure on essential services. [36220]

Mr. Jack: I regret that it has not been possible to provide a substantive answer before the summer recess. I shall write to the hon. Member shortly and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Fuel Duty Rebate

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the revenue raised in each year since 1994 as a result of freezing fuel duty rebate; and what estimate he has made of the level of increased fares as a result of the rebate being frozen. [34398]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: About £35 million in 1994–95. The level of fares in the industry is a matter for commercial consideration.

Annual Season Coach Tickets

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make annual season coach tickets tax deductible; and if he will make a statement. [34400]

Mr. Jack: No. Under the current law, the cost of annual season coach tickets for home-to-work travel is not tax deductible. There are no plans to change the law.

Friendly Societies

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will undertake an immediate review of the effect of the regulatory requirements of the authorities established under the Financial Services Act 1986 on friendly societies. [34401]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I have no plans to do so. In the first instance this is a matter for the Personal Investment Authority, which has a working group considering the regulatory regime for friendly societies.

Low Pay

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission a full statistical survey of current wage values in the border region in Scotland to determine the percentage of full-time and part-time workers on low pay; and if he will make a statement. [34396]

Mrs. Angela Knight: No. Such a survey would place large form-filling burden on businesses in the area. The annual new earnings survey already provides some relevant information on average earnings.

National Lottery

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the impact on the public balances of the income from the national lottery broken down between moneys in taxation and moneys due to be allocated for good causes. [35532]

Mr. Waldegrave: Latest outturn data show that the direct effects of the national lottery reduced the public sector borrowing requirement by £400 million in 1994–95. This was entirely on account of additional Government receipts of which lottery duty accounted for £100 million and the time delay between receipt of money for good causes into the national lottery distribution fund and its distribution accounted for a further £300 million. There may have been an indirect effect in the form of a small loss of tax yield, as a result of expenditure switching to the lottery, but this is difficult to quantify.

Export Prices

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what were the United Kingdom export prices relative to those of other EEC countries at current rates of exchange for each quarter since 1990. [35198]

Mrs. Angela Knight: Export price figures for the main manufacturing countries are published by the Central Statistical Office in the "Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics". These figures are also available on the central database of the Central Statistical Office, which can be accessed through the Library of the House. Figures for the other EC countries can be found in "International Financial Statistics" published monthly by the International Monetary Fund.

Exchange Rates

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the change in the real rate of exchange relative to those of other EEC countries between the fourth quarter of 1992 and the first quarter of 1994; and what assessment he has made of its effects on *(a)* the balance of visible trade with EEC and *(b)* output, employment and investment in the import-competing and export industries. [35200]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him on 7 March, *Official Report*, column 102, and on 3 April, *Official Report*, column *909*, and on 10 May, *Official Report*, column *543*.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the fall in the nominal rate against the deutschmark; and if he will indicate United Kingdom export prices for manufactures at current rates of exchange relative to those of the EEC Six and Sweden since the United Kingdom's entry into the exchange rate mechanism. [35212]

Mrs. Knight: Data for sterling's exchange rate against other EC members are published by the Central Statistical Office in "Financial Statistics", while export price figures for the main manufacturing countries are published in the "Monthly Review of External Trade Statistics". These figures are also available on the central database of the Central Statistical Office, which can be accessed through the Library of the House.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the effect of a rise of 5 pfennigs

against the pound on the rate of inflation in United Kingdom manufacturing. [36291]

Mrs. Knight: Inflation in United Kingdom manufacturing depends on a number of factors, including sterling's exchange rate against the deutschmark. It is difficult to isolate the effects of one single factor.

Imports (Manufactures)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the United Kingdom percentage share of the import market for manufactures in 1970, 1979, 1985 and 1994 for *(a)* the EEC Six *(b)* the countries that were members of the European Free Trade Area in 1970, *(c)* the Irish Republic, *(d)* the Commonwealth and *(e)* the combined figures for *(a)*, *(b)*, and *(c)*.

Mrs. Angela Knight: The information required to calculate these import shares is not readily available, and estimates could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Inward Direct Investment

Mr. Shore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of total Japanese and American direct investment in the European Community came to the United Kingdom in each year since 1979. [35261]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The UK has attracted the lion's share of the stock of inward direct investment in the European Community. In 1993 the UK had about a third of all investment and over 40 per cent. of US and Japanese inward direct investment in the European Community.

Comprehensive data for direct investment flows between 1983 and 1992 are published in the OECD's "International Direct Investment Statistics Yearbook 1994", which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Female Employees

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35676]

Mrs. Angela Knight: As part of a package of measures designed to ensure equality of opportunity within the department, the Treasury has set flow targets to measure the progress of women and ethnic minority staff. Among these targets are objectives (i) to achieve a pattern of promotion for men and women which is related to their representation in the field; (ii) to increase the proportion of women in the higher grades over time, and (iii) in the longer term, for women to be represented in the most senior grades in the same proportions as they are recruited into the Treasury in the "feeder grades".

Further measures to encourage the promotion of women include: action to address the perceived "long hours culture" within the Treasury, which is seen as a potential barrier to women; the introduction of an open system of postings within the department up to grade 4 level with the presumption that all posts are open to alternative working patterns except where a valid case is made to the contrary; and flexible working hours made available to more than one third of the staff.

The Treasury does not have any executive agencies.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the percentages of these staff that are women, in his Department and each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [35665]

Mrs. Knight: The information is not available in the form requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Incomes

Ms Corston: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the disposable income of households in *(a)* the lowest decile and *(b)* the highest decile in 1993 and 1994 for the households with (i) one adult, one child, (ii) one adult, two or more children, (iii) one man, one woman and one child, (iv) one man, one woman, two children (v) one man, one woman, three children, (vi) two adults, four or more children, (vii) three adults, one or more children and (viii) four adults, one or more children, following table 34 in the CSO family spending report for 1992. [34480]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The deciles for 1993 corresponding to those in table 34A of the report on the family expenditure survey for 1992 are given in the table. The figures are estimates from the FES, are subject to sampling variations, and have been rounded to the nearest pound. Data for 1994 are not available.

	Average weekly disposable income (£)	
	Lowest decile	*Highest decile*
One adult, one child	68	255
One adult, two or more children	85	279
One man, one woman and one child	119	579
One man, one woman, two children	161	649
One man, one woman, three children	149	648
Two adults, four or more children	135	536
Three adults, one or more children	198	674
Four adults, one or more children	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Figures are not available as there are too few households in the sample to provide reliable estimates.

Ms Corston: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the disposable income of households in *(a)* the lowest decile and *(b)* the highest decile in 1993 and 1994 in actual terms per week, and as a percentage of the median for (i) the United Kingdom and (ii) Greater London—following table 34 in the CSO family spending report for 1992. [34473]

Mrs. Knight: The figures for 1993 in the table of average weekly disposable income are from the family expenditure survey. The figures are subject to sampling variations and have been rounded to the nearest ten pence. Data for 1994 are not available.

	Average weekly disposable income (£)			As a percentage of the median	
	Lowest decile	Highest decile	Median	Lowest decile	Highest decile
United Kingdom	73.00	553.50	236.40	30.9	234.1
Greater London	71.70	684.90	257.30	27.9	266.2

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the number and percentage of the adult population in each region and nation with less than the average annual national income level in each year since 1992. [34181]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The average hourly earnings for employees in Great Britain on adult rates of pay were £7.56 in 1993 and £7.74 in 1994. The following tables show the numbers in the near earnings survey sample and percentages of those people earning less than the given amounts in the areas requested.

Corresponding figures for 1992 cannot be produced without incurring disproportionate cost.

Employees on adult rates whose average gross hourly earnings were less than £7.74: April 1994

Standard Region	Sample Number	Percentage
South East	21,663	54.0
East Anglia	3,370	70.4
South West	6,769	68.1
West Midlands	8,242	70.3
East Midlands	6,505	72.6
Yorkshire and Humberside	7,820	71.3
North West	9,281	68.3
North	4,583	70.9
England	68,233	64.1
Wales	3,798	70.9
Scotland	8,420	68.8

Employees on adult rates whose average gross hourly earnings were less than £7.56: April 1993.

Standard Region	Sample Number	Percentage
South East	22,630	54.0
East Anglia	3,493	72.0
South West	7,083	68.1
West Midlands	8,645	70.4
East Midlands	6,702	72.6
Yorkshire and Humberside	8,239	71.9
North West	9,675	68.3
North	4,673	71.2
England	71,140	64.2
Wales	3,810	71.3
Scotland	8,383	68.0

General Government Financial Deficits

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list for each Budget since 1965, and for the first fiscal year for which each Budget is designed *(a)* the implied or actual Budget forecast for the general government financial deficit as a proportion of gross domestic product and *(b)* the net fiscal effect of all Budget tax measures on the economy, expressed as a positive or negative percentage of gross domestic product. [35375]

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The following table sets out the information requested, where available. Forecasts for the general government financial deficit were not published before the 1970 Budget. The net fiscal effect of Budget tax changes was not calculated on the present indexed basis prior to the 1982 Budget.

Budget forecasts of general government financial deficit and the net fiscal effect of Budget tax measures on the economy expressed as a per cent. of gross domestic product

Percentage of GDP[1]

Date of Budget	Forecast for year	GGFD	Net fiscal effect of Budget tax measures[2]
April 1970	1970–71	3.4	—
March 1971	1971–72	1.0	—
March 1972	1972–73	1.7	—
March 1973	1973–74	2.6	—
March 1974	1974–75	0.0	—
November 1974	1974–75	3.8	—
April 1975	1975–76	5.1	—
April 1976	1976–77	5.8	—
March 1977	1977–78	3.6	—
April 1978	1978–79	3.7	—
June 1979	1979–80	2.9	—
March 1980	1980–81	2.4	—
March 1981	1981–82	1.5	—
March 1982	1982–83	1.6	–0.6
March 1983	1983–84	2.6	–0.5
March 1984	1984–85	2.6	0.0
March 1985	1985–86	2.8	–0.2
March 1986	1986–87	3.4	0.3
March 1987	1987–88	2.4	–0.6
March 1988	1988–89	0.5	–0.8
March 1989	1989–90	–1.1	–0.4
March 1990	1990–91	–0.2	0.1
March 1991	1991–92	2.0	0.1
March 1992	1992–93	5.2	–0.4
March 1993	1993–94	8.7	0.1
November 1993	1994–95	6.3	0.2
November 1994	1995–96	3.7	–0.2

[1] GDP figures: CSO outturns up to 1994–95 and HMT forecast for 1995–96.

[2] The net effect of tax changes from an indexed basis. [Yield (+)/cost(–)].

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on budget deficit measures used by the United Kingdom's European partners. [34198]

Mr. Waldegrave *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The United Kingdom's European partners use a variety of budget deficit measures. Most are calculated on a cash basis. A common standardised measure of general government financial deficit is used in the excessive deficits procedure as set out in article 104c and the associated protocol of the treaty on European Union as amended as Maastricht.

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the inclusion of BNFL will be subject to scrutiny by the National Audit Office following its inclusion in the public sector borrowing requirement; and if he will make a statement. [36203]

Mr. Waldegrave: The inclusion of BNFL in the public sector borrowing requirement statistics is unrelated to the question of scrutiny by the National Audit Office. As a public limited company, BNFL is subject to the normal Companies Act audit requirements, and is not audited by the National Audit Office.

Pensioners

Sir Andrew Bowden: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage and number of one adult pensioner households have an average weekly expenditure of £74.26 or less according to the family expenditure survey 1993, table 4.1. [34823]

Mrs. Knight *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The percentage of one adult retired households who are mainly dependent on state pensions with average weekly expenditure of £74.26 or less is estimated, from the family expenditure survey 1993, to have been 65 per cent. This figure is subject to sampling variation.

Venture Capital

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the venture capital spent in each standard region and the number of companies assisted for each of the last available five years. [35411]

Mr. Jack *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* On the basis of figures published by the British Venture Capital Association, the table shows the funds invested in the UK and the number of companies financed, analysed by region.

Amount (£ million) of venture capital invested by region

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
South east	674 (512)	513 (450)	550 (412)	650 (383)	612 (387)
South west	34 (68)	72 (60)	125 (77)	34 (54)	143 (59)
East Anglia	51 (57)	27 (50)	33 (59)	51 (35)	40 (32)
West Midlands	64 (87)	93 (102)	88 (112)	81 (70)	216 (103)
East Midlands	70 (81)	47 (80)	83 (64)	46 (63)	73 (66)
Yorkshire/Humberside	57 (75)	74 (104)	80 (104)	37 (92)	104 (89)
North west	38 (64)	46 (66)	106 (117)	168 (95)	225 (102)
North	23 (50)	21 (45)	25 (38)	22 (54)	79 (58)
Scotland	81 (174)	73 (150)	96 (98)	119 (151)	77 (138)
Wales	12 (39)	17 (57)	37 (41)	16 (48)	73 (37)
Northern Ireland	2 (14)	6 (32)	28 (25)	7 (21)	26 (30)
Total	1,106 (1,221)	989 (1,196)	1,251 (1,147)	1,231 (1,066)	1,668 (1,101)

Number of companies in brackets.

Research Projects

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many research projects commissioned by his Department were given to companies based in Scotland in 1993–94 and 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [31891]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* The Treasury did not award any research contracts to companies based in Scotland during the years in question.

Business Rating Appeals

Ms Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to reduce the waiting time for business rating appeals to be dealt with in central region. [32543]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 6 July 1995]:* In line with Valuation Office agency national policy, the current aim is to clear the vast majority of rating appeals made before 1 April 1995 by 31 March 1996.

It is expected that nationally, England and Wales, 330,000 1990 and 1995 rating list appeals will be cleared during this financial year.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what will be the involvement of the Deputy Prime Minister in the work of his Department. [34033]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* I have nothing to add to the reply given by the Prime Minister on 11 July to the hon. Member for Pembroke (Mr. Ainger), *Official Report*, columns *496–97*.

Department of Employment

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the former Department of Employment's responsibilities his Department has now taken on; and which Minister is in charge of each area of responsibility. [34042]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The Treasury has not taken on any of the former Department of Employment's responsibilities, but the Central Statistical Office has taken over responsibility for the production of employment statistics and labour market surveys. I am the Minister with responsibility for the Central Statistical Office.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making

information about his Department available to the public via the Government World Wide Web server known as "ww.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34687]

Mrs. Angela Knight: The Treasury launched its own Internet service on 15 November 1994.

Material is provided on the Treasury's own Internet server on the World Wide Web. In addition to the World Wide Web, the same information can be obtained by electronic mail or by file transfer, FTP.

The addresses are:

Email mailing lists: maillist@hm-treasury.gov.uk

Email file transfer: ftpmail@hm-treasury.gov.uk

File Transfer (FTP): ftp.hm-treasury.gov.uk

World Wide Web: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

The service gives details of the Budget, including my right hon. and learned Friend's Budget statement and all the Budget news releases.

Other documents that are available include Treasury news releases, speeches, minutes of my right hon. and learned Friend's monthly monetary meetings with the Governor of the Bank of England, reports of the panel of independent forecasters and details of the fundamental expenditure review of Treasury running costs.

There is a continuing programme to add more services including articles about specific topics of economic interest.

It is anticipated that individual e-mail addresses will be allocated later this year and the dedicated post of Internet editor will shortly be filled.

The Treasury's system can be accessed directly using any one of the addresses I have set out. In addition users can find the Treasury pages either on the "www.open.gov.uk" Government World Wide Web Server or through the server of the Central Office of Information. The Treasury's pages are, in both cases, linked by hypertext.

At the moment, users can also obtain help about the service using electronic mail. The address is "info@hm-treasury.gov.uk".

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34691]

Mr. Jack: The Government recognise the importance of the small firms sector and are firmly committed to supporting it. Policy centres around providing the right environment in which small firms can succeed by creating a favourable economic climate with low inflation and stable interest rates, reducing administrative and regulatory burdens and providing direct assistance where required.

Specific examples of measures to help small firms, announced in my right hon. and learned Friend's last Budget were:

reduction in employers national insurance contributions to make it cheaper to take on new staff;

an extension of the existing scheme of transitional arrangements to ease the impact of the revaluation in business rates;

enhancements to venture capital trusts and the enterprise investment scheme to promote investment in growing firms;

consultation on the development of a financial management certificate and a review of the loan guarantee scheme to widen small firms' access to finance;

various measures to reduce the burdens on small businesses, including consultation on a move to annual VAT returns and payments for small businesses and a simplified scheme of VAT accounting for small traders, closer alignment of national insurance contributions and income tax, an increase in the VAT registration threshold and a reduction in the penalty for failing to register for VAT.

The White Paper announced in May 1995 outlines a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

Fuel and Power Expenditure

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the average household's expenditure on fuel and power in each year since 1985, by region. [34177]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* Estimates of the weekly average household expenditure by region are shown in successive published reports of the family expenditure survey.

Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34598]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* There have been 33 redundancies in the Treasury over the past 12 months. All were voluntary.

The costs are a mixture of benefits payable immediately—which may include compensation lump sum and/or pension—plus costs arising over a longer term—that is, the annual compensation to staff under the age of 60. The total immediate cost is about £1.4 million and the longer-term costs are about £2.2 million spread over the next 10 years.

Staff Sickness

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34597]

Mrs. Angela Knight *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* In the period 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995, 19,480 days were registered as being lost due to sickness in HM Treasury. Where absences fall both before and after a weekend or public holiday, the weekend or public holiday is counted as part of the absence even though they are not "working days". It has not been possible, in the time available, to adjust the figures to present these absences as a proportion of the total number of days worked. Information is not held centrally that would enable the cost of such absence to be calculated, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Fire Safety Legislation

Mr. Pike: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if the review team's report regarding fire safety legislation and enforcement matter arising from the deregulation proposals has now been considered; and when he expects to be able to make a statement on the outcome. [34237]

Mr. Beith: To ask the First Secretary of State when the fire safety legislation and enforcement review was published; when the consultation period ended; when the Government response will be published; and what factors have been responsible for any delay with publication. [34447]

Mr. Freeman: "The Interdepartmental Review of Fire Safety Legislation and Enforcement" was published on 22 June 1994 and the consultation period ended on 31 October 1994. There were over 460 responses, many of them raising important and complex issues. The deregulation task force, set up to help the Government promote deregulation, is now being consulted about the way ahead on fire regulation and enforcement, including our emerging findings on the review. The Government's response will be announced as soon as this process is complete.

Regional Offices (Directors)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will state for each regional Government office, the civil servant with overall responsibility, his department and his annual salary. [36112]

Mr. Freeman: The civil servants with overall responsibility for each integrated regional office are listed below:

Integrated regional office	*Regional Director*	*Parent department*	*Grade*
London	Mr. R. U. Young	Department of the Environment	Grade 2
Eastern Region	Mr. J. Turner	Department for Education and Employment	Grade 3
East Midlands	Mr. H. M. Lanyon	Department of Trade and Industry	Grade 3
Merseyside	Mr. J. F. Stoker	Department of the Environment	Grade 3
North East	Mrs. P. A. Denham	Department of Trade and Industry	Grade 3
North West	Miss M. T. Neville-Rolfe	Department of Trade and Industry	Grade 3
South East	Mrs. G. M. Ashmore	Department of Transport	Grade 3
South West	Mr. B. H. Leonard	Department of the Environment	Grade 3
West Midlands	Mr. D. R. Ritchie	Department of the Environment	Grade 3
Yorkshire and Humberside	Mr. J. C. M. Walker	Department for Education and Employment	Grade 3

The salary range for a grade 2 is from £67,500 to £98,000 and for a grade 3 from £55,000 to £82,500.

St. Bride's Minor (Land Sale)

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library the documentation relating to the sale of lands in the parish of Saint Bride's Minor, including Coiety Wallia common by the Duchy of Lancaster to the Dunraven estate. [35936]

Mr. Freeman: I understand that the question of title to the lands in the parish of St. Bride's Minor was discussed at some length with the hon. Member for Bridgend at a meeting attended by representatives of the Duchy of Lancaster and of the Dunraven estate in the House earlier this year.

If the hon. Member wishes to see the documents relating to the disposal of the Duchy's interest in that land, he is welcome to attend the Duchy of Lancaster Office at 1 Lancaster place, Strand where they will be made available to him.

Ministerial Cars

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Prime Minister what make and type of Government car will be allocated to the Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary; and what will be the cost of such a vehicle to the Exchequer, including the annual cost of the chauffeur. [34013]

Mr. Freeman: I have been asked to reply.

The Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State does not use a car or driver from the Government car service. However he uses a car, together with a driver, on cost terms to the public service fully equivalent to the usual ministerial transport arrangements provided by the GCS—currently £43,628 per annum, excluding VAT.

The full terms of this arrangement are set out in a letter dated 16 March 1995, agreed when he was President of the Board of Trade. A copy of this letter has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Civil Servants

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35459]

Mr. Horam: The numbers of permanent industrial and non-industrial staff on 1 April 1995—before the recent machinery of Government changes—on a headcount basis were as follows:

	Male		Female	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Office of Public Service and Science (excluding agencies)	521	4	327	49
Chessington Computer Centre	193	2	164	59
Civil Service College	114	5	108	53
Occupational Health and Safety Agency	22	0	71	10
Recruitment and Assessment Services Agency	42	1	82	12
Central Office of Information	298	1	200	13
HM Stationery Office	1,982	11	857	109
Total	3,172	24	1,809	305

The breakdown by grade of non-industrial staff is as follows:

	Male		Female	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Grade 1A	2	0	0	0
Grade 2	2	0	1	0
Grade 3	8	0	2	0
Grade 4	5	0	0	0
Grade 5	29	0	12	1
Grade 6	48	1	8	1
Grade 7	213	7	55	11
SEO	109	0	37	6
AT/HEO(D)	49	0	18	0
HEO	135	0	74	13
EO	178	2	137	33
AO	140	0	236	61
AA	28	1	65	24
Assistant Economist	12	0	2	0
Assistant Statistician	0	0	2	0
Senior Information Officer	62	0	40	3
Information Officer	71	0	43	9
Assistant Information Officer	11	0	7	0
Senior Librarian	0	0	1	0
Librarian	2	0	1	0
Assistant Librarian	1	0	1	1
Legal Officer	2	0	0	0
Legal Trainee	0	0	4	0
Senior P and T Officer	1	0	0	0
Senior Personal Secretary	0	0	26	1
Personal Secretary	0	0	64	9
Typist	0	0	34	13
Higher Scientific Officer	2	0	0	0
Senior Psychologist	1	0	0	0
Higher Psychologist	3	0	0	0
Support Manager 3	3	0	1	0
Support Grade Band 1	11	0	6	0
Support Grade Band 2	36	2	18	1
Senior Telecomms. Technical Officer	1	0	0	0
Principal Occupational Health Advisor	0	0	2	0
Senior Occupational Health Advisor	1	0	8	0
Occupational Health Advisor	3	0	15	1
Occupational Health Practitioner	1	0	8	2
Occupational Health Nurse	0	0	7	3
Office Administrator	1	0	10	2
Principal Medical Officer	1	0	0	0
Senior Medical Officer	3	0	2	0
Medical Officer	2	0	2	1

The breakdown by grade of non-industrial staff is as follows:

	Male		Female	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Chief Occupational Hygiene Safety Officer	1	0	0	0
Principal Hygiene and Safety Advisor	1	0	1	0
Senior Safety and Hygiene Advisor	1	0	2	0
Hygiene and Safety Advisor	2	0	0	0
Ungraded Staff	1,979	11	875	109
Total	3,161	24	1,809	305

No breakdown of industrial staff by grade is available.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the First Secretary of State (1) pursuant to his answer of 13 July, *Official Report*, column *712*, how many times a behavioural condition has been applied to a civil servant leaving the Crown service in each of the last three years; and if he will break down the figures by Department; [35853]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 13 July, *Official Report*, column *712*, if he will list the types of behavioural conditions applied during the last year to civil servants leaving the Crown service by Government Department; [35852]

(3) how many civil servants have left the service of the Crown under the business appointment rules in each Government Department in each of the last three years. [35830]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I regret that it has not been possible to provide answers before the summer recess. I shall therefore be writing to the hon. Member and will place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Mr. Wicks: To ask the First Secretary of State if he will make a statement on the number of civil servants in each Department who have either been made redundant or have sought early retirement; and if he will set out the pension and other public costs. [35821]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I regret that it has not been possible to provide an answer before the summer recess. I shall therefore be writing to the hon. Member and will place a copy of the letter in the Library.

HEALTH

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied them and the total cost to public funds in each case, including that of officials for each year since 1992. [32254]

Mr. Sackville: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that the then Minister for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Dr. Mawhinney), gave the hon. Member for Newport, East (Mr. Hughes) on 3 November 1994, *Official Report*, columns *222–24*, for information covering the period April 1992 to mid-October 1993.

Information on the dates, destinations and purpose of visits made by my right hon. Friend and ministerial colleagues since 14 October 1993 is shown in the table. The total cost of overseas travel by Ministers and private secretaries in each financial year is also shown.

Information on officials accompanying Ministers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Date	Destination	Purpose
FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1993 TO MARCH 1994		
Minister of State for Health—Dr. Mawhinney		
7–15 November 1993	USA	Fact finding visit in connection with Ministerial responsibilities
13 December 1993	Brussels	EC Health Council
Total spend for 7th November to March 1994		*£4,653*
FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1994—MARCH 1995		
Secretary of State for Health		
17–18 November 1994	Brussels	To address OECD High Level Conference of National Experts on Health Reform
1 December 1994	Paris	World AIDS Summit
21–22 December 1994	Brussels	EC Health Council
13–17 March 1995	Japan	Trade Mission to promote inward investment (Prescribe UK)
Minister of State for Health—Dr. Mawhinney		
4 March 1994	Dublin	Meeting with Irish Health Minister
30 March 1994	Brussels	EC Health Council—Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) meeting
19 June 1994	Helsinki	European Conference on environmental health
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State—Mr. Bowis OBE		
3 February 1994	Strasburg	European Council Meeting on Drugs
13 May 1994	Rhodes Island	Greek Presidency Conference on heart disease
2 June 1994	Luxembourg	EC Health Council
30 June 1994	Amsterdam	EC Health Council
18–24 September 1994	Amsterdam; Germany; Hungary	Fact finding visit on Child care, drug abuse,a nd AIDS. Also signing Health Co-operation plan in Hungary
1 January 1995	Lebanon	Council for Advancement in Arab British Understanding
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State—Baroness Cumberlege CBE		
3–4 May 1995	Geneva	World Health Assembly
17–18 June 1994	Paris	AIDS Summit
Total annual spend		*£20,507*
FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 1995 TO DATE		
Secretary of State for Health		
2–3 May 1995	Geneva	World Health Assembly
29 May–2 June 1995	USA	Fact finding visit in connection with Ministerial responsibilities
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State—Mr. Bowis OBE		
1–2 June 1995	Luxembourg	EC Health Council
22 June 1995	Copenhagen	European Social Services Conference
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State—Mr. Sackville		
25–28 April	Hamburg; Hanover; Dresden	Trade mission to promote health exports
Total spend to end May 1995		*£17,710*

Research

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has carried out *(a)* into women's nutrition and lifestyle, *(b)* in respect of an international stroke trial, *(c)* in respect of a randomised controlled trial of counselling and antidepressants in primary care and *(d)* into the use of the stroke test to examine monothematic delusional states; what were the findings; and if he will make a statement. [34046]

Mr. Malone: The information is shown in the table.

Title	Researcher/ Establishment
(a) Research relating to women and lifestyle	
Further analysis of data from the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (ends January 1996)	Mrs. K. Wellings, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Mrs. J. Wordsworth, St. Mary's Hospital
Evaluation of smoking cessation training pack for health care professionals working with young mothers (ends September 1995)	Professor H. Graham, University of Warwick
Protective factors in adolescent smokers (ends March 1996)	Dr. J. Holland and Professor A. Oakley, University of London
Quantative/behavioural study: why do adolescent girls smoke? (ends January 1996)	Dr. Lloyd, University of Sussex
A comparative study of the daily lives and smoking behaviour of working class women with children (ended December 1994)	Professor H. Graham, University of Warwick
Preventing relapses to smoking in pregnant women (ends December 1997)	Dr. P. Hajar, London Hospital Medical School, and Dr. R. West, St. George's Hospital
Health care delivery to drug-using pregnant women (ends December 1995)	Dr. H. Klee, Metropolitan University Manchester
The effects of passive smoking; analysis of data on the effects of mother and foetus in pregnancy (ended early 1994)	Professor J. Golding, University of Bristol
Prostitution and HIV related risk behaviour—a study of drug-using prostitutes, their clients and their health care needs (ended 1992)	Mrs. J. Faugier, University of Warwick
(b) International stroke trial	
International stroke trial to randomise 20,000 acute stroke patients between treatment with aspirin, heparin, both or neither—funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC—ends 1997)	Dr. P. Sandercock and Professor C. Warlow, Edinburgh University

Title	Researcher/ Establishment
(c) Randomised controlled trial of counselling and antidepressants in primary care	
Randomised controlled trial of counselling and antidepressants in primary care—funded by the MRC (ends 1997)	Dr. Lewis, Institute of Psychiatry, London
A comparison of the efficacy and cost effectiveness of counselling, cognitive behavioural therapy, and usual treatment by general practitioner for patients with depression and mixed anxiety and depression	National Health Service Research and Development Programme funding
To establish the efficacy and cost effectiveness of counselling in primary care for patients with chronic depression and anxiety	National Health Service Research and Development Programme funding
(d) Research into the use of stroop test to examine monothematic delusional states	
To examine the clinical features and nosological status of eating disorders of childhood onset—in addition to other measures stroop paradigm will be used to measure the extent of psychopathological disturbance in children with eating disorders—funded by the MRC (ends 1988)	Professor Cooper, Institute of Child Health

Note:
1. In relation to (a), within a developing area of study, in collaboration with the MRC, the Department is undertaking several studies on the nutrition of adult men and women, and with children.
2. In relation to (b), the Stroop paradigm or test is a psychological test of information processing. The classical Stroop paradigm consists of a colour word. These may be either congruent (eg the word RED with a red coloured patch) or incongruent (eg the word BLUE with a red patch). When subjects are asked to read the word of identify the colour of the patch, the reaction time is slowed in the incongruous situation; this is known as the Stroop effect and is related to a more general psychological effect known as latent inhibition.

Radiation

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what investigations his Department is currently undertaking in respect of research relating to radiation tests on humans. [34463]

Mr. Sackville: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that the Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Battersea (Mr. Bowis), gave the hon. Member for Blaenan Gwent (Mr. Smith) on 18 July.

Correspondence

Mr. Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the hon. Member for Worcestershire, South can expect to receive a reply to his letter of 24 May to the hon. Member for Winchester. [35330]

Mr. Malone: I replied today.

GP Fundholding

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of savings made by fundholding general practitioners have been used to increase the value of premises *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in South Yorkshire FHSAs and *(c)* in Rotherham FHSA. [36174]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what has been the total cost of general practice fundholding in management allowances and start-up costs of buying computers since it started. [35524]

Mr. Malone: The available information is in the table.

£ million

	1990–91	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*[1]
Practice fundholding in management allowances	6	14	29	49	66
General practitioner fundholding computers[2]	n/a	12	18	19	19

The data are estimates based on information reported by family health services authorities.
[1] Information on expenditure incurred in 1994–95 is not yet available. The information given is the total sums allocated.
[2] Prior to 1993–94, centrally collected data did not differentiate between fundholding and general medical services computer costs. Therefore the data for years 1990–91 to 1992–93 for computers to support fundholding are estiamted from the total expenditure on computers to support general practitioners.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evidence his Department has on whether general practice fundholding has affected the principle of equal access to treatment. [35521]

Mr. Malone: The aim of resource allocation in the national health service is to ensure that purchasers are allocated their patients' fair share of local NHS resources. It is then for purchasers to secure the most appropriate balance of services to meet their patients' needs within patients charter guarantees and national guidelines—including the 1991 agreement with the medical profession, which made it clear that provider units may not offer contracts to one purchaser which would disadvantage the patients of other purchasers.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will review the ability of general practitioner fundholders to retain savings for up to four years; and how much of the total savings have been so retained; [35525]

(2) if he will review the rules affecting the savings made by general practitioner fundholders; and if he will make a statement. [35520]

Mr. Malone: The general practitioner fundholding scheme is kept under constant review, including how efficiency savings can be used for the benefit of patients.

In the first three years of the scheme fundholders achieved efficiency savings of about 3.5 to 4 per cent. of budgets set amounting to around £110 million.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the recommendations in the 27th report of the Committee of Public Accounts, HC264 of the present Session, on general practitioner fundholding. [35582]

Mr. Malone: The Government will respond to this report in the normal way.

NHS Trusts (Pensions)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in pensions to former directors of NHS trusts in each of the last three years. [35834]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in pension contributions to NHS trust executive members in each of the last three years. [35832]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally. Trust executive members are eligible for membership of the national health service pension scheme in the same way as other employees.

Skin Conditions

Mr. Congdon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimates have been made as to the extra financial costs incurred by an average family unit as a result of a child having eczema; [35929]

(2) what studies his Department has undertaken to assess the disruption caused to an average family where one child has eczema. [35930]

Mr. Sackville: None.

Mr. Congdon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been received about poor quality gloves causing skin reactions between *(a)* 1990 to 1994 and *(b)* 1994–95. [35931]

Mr. Sackville: The number of adverse incidents notified to the Medical Devices Agency from 1990 to 1994 were five and for 1994–95 three.

Mr. Congdon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimates his Department has made as to the number of surgeons' hours lost as a result of skin diseases contracted by the use of poor quality rubber gloves; [35800]

(2) what estimates his Department has made as to the treatment costs of treating a child with eczema. [35928]

Mr. Sackville: This information is not available centrally.

Brook Hospital

Mr. John Austin-Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date services from the Brook hospital will transfer to the Queen Elizabeth military hospital, Woolwich; what was the target date for transfer; and if he will make a statement. [25938]

Mr. Sackville: Greenwich Healthcare national health service trust intends to begin the transfer of services from the Brook Hospital to the Queen Elizabeth military hospital as close to the target of mid-August as possible. Clearly the highest priority is to ensure that local residents continue to have access to safe and effective health services.

Mr. Austin-Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the number of redundancies as a result of the impending closures of the Brook hospital and the Queen Elizabeth military hospital, Woolwich; if he will provide a breakdown by occupation showing the numbers of NHS and MoD staff redundant; and if he will make a statement. [35939]

Mr. Sackville: This is a matter for Greenwich Healthcare national health service trust, in discussion with the Ministry of Defence. The hon. Member may wish to contact the chairman of the trust, Mr. Richard Baglin, for details.

Chronic Disease Management

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the availability of special illness clinics; and if he will list the reimbursements available to general practitioners for organising special illness clinics. [35862]

Mr. Sackville: Over 90 per cent. of general practitioners are running organised programmes of chronic disease management of £365 for patients with asthma or diabetes. Participating GPs receive an annual payment for setting up and overseeing a practice programme for either disease.

Poisons Unit

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 4 April, *Official Report*, column *1037*, which reports produced by the poisons unit are in the public domain; against which product action has been recommended; and what action has been taken so far. [36323]

Mr. Sackville: The poisons unit produces reports for the Department of Health, European Community and World Health Organisation. Several of the case reports considered by the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment were published in a scientific journal in 1994.

Officials within the Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are discussing the best ways of taking the COT's advice forward.

NHS Funding

Sir Ralph Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the real change in total health expenditure between 1979 and 1994; and what was the average cost of this expenditure per taxpayer over the period. [36308]

Mr. Sackville: Net Government expenditure on the national health service increased by 61.1 per cent. in real terms between 1978–79 and 1993–94, or £10,977 million at 1993–94 prices. This increase is equivalent to £523 per taxpayer.

Remuneration of Auditors

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 17 July, *Official Report*, columns *930-31*, if he will provide 1992–93 regional data on the remuneration of auditors. [36177]

Mr. Sackville: The 1992–93 summarised accounts show the cost of the audit of the accounts as £16.2 million. This total cannot be reliably attributed to individual regions and is not comparable with figures for 1993–94.

Illegal Drugs

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is his assessment of the relative toxicity of *(a)* cannabis, *(b)* heroin/morphine and *(c)* cocaine and their capacity to create addition. [35877]

Mr. Bowis: There is significant morbidity and mortality associated with the misuse of drugs, the extent of which may vary according to the individual misuser and the drug misused. Heroin, morphine, cocaine, cannabis and other psychotropic drugs have the potential to create dependency, the severity of which will also vary.

Scientology

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will institute an investigation into the effects on the psychological health of young people in the United Kingdom of the methods used by the Church of Scientology; and if he will make a statement. [35828]

Mr. Bowis: We have no current plans to do so.

NHS Staff

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurses and midwives and *(b)* doctors have worked in (i) the acute and (ii) the community sector of the NHS in each of the last three years. [35848]

Mr. Sackville: The information is shown in the tables.

Doctors as at 30 September each year (whole-time equivalents)

	Hospital	*Community*
1991	41,430	2,780
1992	42,290	2,600
1993	43,800	2,590

Figures exclude locums, and are rounded to the nearest 10. General practitioners and dental staff are not included.

Nursing and midwifery staff (excluding agency) working within hospitals and the community sector of the NHS as at 30 September each year (Whole time equivalents)

	Hospital	*Community*
1991	339,300	56,610
1992	325,370	57,290
1993	307,870	57,750

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. The decrease in hospital nursing and midwifery staff are mainly a result of the fall in the number of learners and the exclusion of Project 2000 students. Project 2000 students are bursary paid and are not employed by the NHS. There were around 10,500 Project 2000 students in 1991, 18,300 in 1992 and 28,000 in 1993.
3. Figures exclude nursing and midwifery staff working in centrally based services, blood transfusion services, which are not based in hospitals, and administrative nursing and midwifery staff.
4. Figures for community nursing and midwifery staff include practice nurses.

Training in New Techniques

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what are the measures in place to ensure surgeons practising keyhole surgery have the proper training; and if he will make a statement. [35864]

Mr. Malone: The Department of Health and the Wolfson Foundation have established two minimal access therapy training units, in London and Leeds, to improve and increase the availability of facilities for training clinicians and other health care professionals in this developing field of diagnosis and treatment. The medical royal colleges, which are responsible for the standards and content of training, have issued guidelines for training in the safe use of minimal access techniques.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that new treatments and techniques have been proved safe and effective and that doctors are properly trained to use them; and if he will make a statement. [35863]

Mr. Malone: The medical royal colleges are responsible for determining the content of training and the standard to be achieved. Clearly, this training must be up to date and include new treatments and techniques that have proved safe and effective. One example of good practice in this area is the guidance published by the surgical royal colleges for the safe introduction of new techniques into surgical clinical practice, including the new development of keyhole surgery.

The national health service increasingly adopts an evidence-based approach to decisions about the treatment of patients. Discussions are taking place with the medical royal colleges about the development of a system for identifying major new technologies in the NHS and for ensuring that appropriate decisions are made about the sort of evaluations required before a procedure comes into wider use.

Tower Hamlets (Population)

Ms Gordon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will give a breakdown of the current population usually resident in Tower Hamlets by enumeration district for the quinary age groups. [35772]

Mr. Sackville: The information requested has been taken from the 1991 "Census of Population for England and Wales Small Area Statistics" and will be placed in the Library.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 17 July, *Official Report*, column *928*, on early retirement of consultants, if he will provide such national information as is available for each quarter over the last five years; and if he will make its policy to collate regional information. [36207]

Mr. Malone: Information on early retirements of consultants by quarter, over the last five years, is not currently available centrally.

I have no plans to collate information about consultant early retirements on a regional basis.

Performance-related Pay

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid to trust board executive members in performance-related pay in each of the last three years. [35831]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally.

Contracting Out

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which services currently provided by regional health authorities are being considered for provision by outside contractors when regional health authorities are abolished from April 1996; which services have already been put out to tender; and which companies won the tender in the case of contracts already awarded. [35829]

Mr. Sackville: Details of services formerly or currently provided by regional health authorities that have recently been sold or transferred to outside contractors, or whose future is still under consideration will be placed in the Library.

NHS Trusts (Compensation Payments)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much compensation has been paid for loss of office to trust board members in each of the last three years. [35833]

Mr. Malone: In 1993–94, a total of £985,000 was paid as compensation for loss of office to executive members of national health service trust boards. Information relating to earlier years is not available. Information relating to 1994–95 will not be available until later this year.

Chairmen and non-executive members of NHS trusts are not entitled to receive compensation payments for loss of office.

Source: NHS trust summarisation schedules.

Asthma

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on trends in the incidence of asthma attacks in Shropshire and surrounding areas in the past five weeks; and what factors are considered to have affected them; and if he will make a statement. [35865]

Mr. Sackville: The hon. Member may wish to contact Councillor D. G. Lloyd, chairman of Shropshire health authority, for details.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what comparative studies his Department has made of the effectiveness of prescribing methods adopted by *(a)* fundholding and *(b)* non-fundholding general practitioners for asthma patients; and if he will make a statement. [34441]

Mr. Malone: No comparative studies have been carried out. However, at October 1994, around 90 per cent. both of fundholding and of non-fundholding general practitioners were providing chronic disease management programmes for asthma and diabetes.

Secure Units

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was the total amount of money allocated for provision of secure units for young people in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each region of England and Wales in 1995–96 and in the past four years. [36258]

Mr. Bowis: I will write to the hon. Member about the figures for England. Figures for Wales are a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales.

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the current costs per place of secure units for young offenders; and what is the current *(a)* average cost, *(b)* highest cost and *(c)* lowest weekly cost of placement in such a unit. [36259]

Mr. Bowis: This information is not available centrally.

NHS Purchasing

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what systems are in place to guarantee that hospitals cannot offer contracts to one purchaser which would disadvantage the patients of another purchaser; and if he will make a statement on the methods of detection and correction in place. [35523]

Mr. Sackville: Joint guidance issued by the Department of Health and the Joint Consultants Committee in 1991 said that provider units may not offer contracts to one purchaser which would disadvantage the patients of other purchasers. Compliance with this, as with other departmental guidance, is secured through the normal performance management processes.

Ranfall Nurses Residence, Sheffield

Mr. Ashton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will investigate the sale of Ranfall, a health authority nurses residence on Ranmoor Park road, Sheffield to Sheffield university without an offer for public sale by auction or tender. [36347]

Mr. Sackville: This is a matter for Trent regional health authority. The hon. Member may wish to contact Keith Ackroyd CBE, the regional chairman, for details.

Medicines Commission

Mr. Thurnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the annual report for 1994 of the Medicines Commission. [36554]

Mr. Sackville: We have received the report, and copies have been today laid before both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the requirements of section 5(2) of the Medicines Act 1968.

Bound volumes have been placed in the Library containing the 1994 reports of the Medicines Commission, the Committee on Safety of Medicines, the Committee on Dental and Surgical Materials, the Advisory Board on the Registration of Homoeopathic Products, the British Pharmacopoeia Commission and the Veterinary Products Committee.

We are glad to pay tribute to the valuable work done by the distinguished members of the Medicines Act advisory bodies and thank them warmly for the time

and effort they contribute in the public interest to this most important field.

National Health Service Pensions Agency

Mr. Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will approve and publish the annual report and accounts of the NHS Pensions Agency. [36630]

Mr. Sackville: I have approved the report and accounts which have today been laid before both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the requirements of section 5(2) and 5(3) of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921.

Copies will be placed in the Library.

Hospital Telecommunication

Mr. Alfred Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response he will be making to the published survey of the provision in hospitals of telecommunication facilities for hard-of-hearing people, conducted for the Communication Workers Union by Hearing Concern, a copy of which has been sent to him; and if he will make a statement. [34873]

Mr. Bowis: We are pleased to note the improvements in provision.

NHS Low Income Scheme

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to simplify the AC1 claim form for health benefits and the eligibility criteria for health benefits; [35527]

(2) how many AC1 claim forms for health benefits were received in each of the last five years; how many were incorrectly filled in; and how much each one costs to process. [35528]

Mr. Malone: The national health service low income scheme was reviewed during 1991 to 1993. As the then Minister for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Dr. Mawhinney), stated on 15 February at column *669*, a large number of proposals had been considered but none had been identified for immediate change within what could be afforded. Form AG1 is kept under review and improvements made as and when the opportunity arises. In 1994–95 the estimated cost of processing an AG1 claim form was about £4.60. The available information about the number of AG1 claims received is shown in the table.

Year	*Number of AG1 claim forms received*
1990–91	1,017,739
1991–92	1,166,960
1992–93	1,203,825
1993–94	1,265,837
1994–95	1,300,963

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the health benefits scheme costs to run in total, and how much is expended in the benefits provided and to how many recipients in each benefit category. [35526]

Mr. Malone: The information is shown in the table.

National health service low income scheme: operating costs and expenditure/revenue foregone on health benefits in England in 1994–95

Item	*Expenditure/revenue foregone [£ million]*
Operating costs[1]	6.0
Prescription charge revenue foregone[2]	273.2
Dental charge revenue foregone[3]	193.3
Expenditure on free/reduced cost sight tests[4]	[5]34.8
Expenditure on optical vouchers[4]	[6]77.5

Notes:

[1] Expenditure by the Prescription Pricing Authority. The expenditure includes the administration costs of the Authority's Health Benefits Division (HBD) in handling claims for health benefits under the NHS Low Income Scheme from people in Great Britain.

[2] In respect of prescribed items dispensed free of charge to recipients of Income Support and Family Credit, holders of AG2 NHS charges certificates for full help and their partners.

[3] In respect of treatment provided to recipients of Income Support and Family Credit, holders of AG2 NHS charges certificates for full help and holders of AG3 NHS charges certificates for limited help and their partners.

[4] For recipients of Income Support and Family Credit, holders of AG2 NHS charges certificates for full help and holders of AG3 NHS charges certificates for limited help and their partners.

[5] Provisional figure. Includes the cost of domiciliary sight tests for housebound patients.

[6] Provisional figure. Includes the cost of vouchers for repairs and replacements.

Public Interest Immunity Certificates

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public interest immunity certificates have been signed in each year since 1979 by the Secretary of State for Health. [35600]

Mr. Sackville: There was no Secretary of State for Health between 1968 and 1988. Two public interest immunity certificates were made by the Secretary of State for Health between then and 1995—one in 1993 and one in 1994.

Listeria

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department gives to pregnant women about the dangers of listeria. [35598]

Mr. Sackville: Advice to pregnant women about listeriosis is contained in the Department's free booklet, "While You Are Pregnant: Safe Eating and How to Avoid Infection From Food and Animals", copies of which are available in the Library.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of listeriosis have been reported in each year since 1967. [35596]

Mr. Sackville: The number of cases of listeriosis reported to the Public Health Laboratory Service in England and Wales between 1967 and 1995 is as follows:

Year	*Number*
1967	25
1968	26
1969	23
1970	30

Year	Number
1971	21
1972	28
1973	25
1974	28
1975	39
1976	31
1977	47
1978	87
1979	70
1980	75
1981	86
1982	77
1983	115
1984	115
1985	149
1986	137
1987	259
1988	291
1989	250
1990	118
1991	130
1992	108
1993	106
1994	[1]113
1995	[2]16

These figures include a few cases from Northern Ireland.
[1] Provisional data.
[2] Provisional data for first quarter.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to continue to make the public aware of the dangers of listeria in certain food. [35597]

Mr. Sackville: The Department keeps the need for advice to the public on food safety issues under ongoing review.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what new information regarding the potential of listeria in certain foods became available in 1989 that was not available in 1987; [35716]

(2) when the Chief Medical Officer first brought the dangers of listeria to the attention of his Department and the Secretary of State for Health. [35717]

Mr. Sackville: The timing of the Department's advice to the public on food borne listeriosis is being considered as part of a current court case, and I cannot comment further at present.

Dr. Strang: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish figures for the number of *(a)* miscarriages, *(b)* stillbirths, *(c)* neo-natal deaths, *(d)* maternal deaths and *(e)* birth defects which are known to have occurred relating to pregnancy associated cases of listeriosis since 1985; and if he will make a statement; [24224]

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases there have been in each year since 1967 of *(a)* stillbirths, *(b)* miscarriages, *(c)* congenital abnormalities and *(d)* child deaths that can be attributed to listeriosis. [35599]

Mr. Sackville *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* I refer the right hon. Member and the hon. Member to the reply that I gave the right hon. Member for Manchester, Wythenshawe (Mr. Morris) on 18 July for information about stillbirths and infant deaths between 1 July 1985 and 31 January 1989 in England and Wales where listeriosis was mentioned on the stillbirth or death certificate. There have been no maternal deaths relating to pregnancy associated cases of listeriosis since 1985. There are no known congenital malformations in the new born associated with in utero listeria infection. Information about miscarriages is not collected centrally. The further information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

NHS Staff

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what initiatives have been introduced to combat shortages of doctors with the NHS in the past 12 months. [35517]

Mr. Malone: We have supported a range of intiatives in the last 12 months to ensure an appropriate supply of doctors.

The NHS Executive is encouraging part-time training to allow doctors to train flexibly to accommodate changes in their personal circumstances. To aid the expansion of flexible training, the quotas for training posts have been removed. The new deal on junior doctors' hours has continued to provide an impetus to increase the number of medical posts in the NHS.

The specialist workforce advisory group, which includes representatives of the medical profession and the NHS, has conducted intense reviews of specialties and its recommendations will be presented to the advisory group on medical education, training and staffing.

The medical workforce standing advisory committee recommended an increase of 500, or 11 per cent., in the target medical school intake. We have accepted this recommendation, and will be discussing its implementation with interested parties.

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he has on shortages of staff within the NHS; and if he will make a statement on the impact of shortages on the provision of services within the health service. [35518]

Mr. Malone: It is for national health service employers to decide the numbers of staff and skills levels they require. There are no general indications of significant recruitment or retention problems. In certain specialist area, however there are known to be some local difficulties.

Child Care

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spends on *(a)* child care provision for under-fives and *(b)* out-of-school provision for the over-fives, both directly, excluding provision for departmental staff, and indirectly through resources made available to local authorities and other organisations; what form of provision is provided; and how many full-time and part-time places are provided. [35553]

Mr. Bowis: During 1995–96 more than £1 million in grant aid has been made available by the Department to voluntary organisations to support day care services for young children which includes more than £500,000 specifically allocated to our out of school initiative. For 1995–96, almost £1.8 billion has been made available for all children's services but it is for local authorities themselves to decide the allocation of resources to

particular services such as child care. In 1993–94, the latest period for which complete information is available, local authorities in England spent £136 million on day nurseries and play groups for the under-fives. A further £98 million was spent on childminding/day fostering and family centres; this figure includes expenditure on children of all ages.

Information on the amount of day care provision for children under eight, including the type of facilities provided, was published in "Children's Day Care Facilities at 31 March 1994, England A/F 94/6", copies of which are available in the Library.

NHS Trusts (Private Sector Purchasing)

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 28 June, *Official Report*, column *684*, what has been the average expenditure per trust on purchasing care from the private sector in each year since 1990–91. [35586]

Mr. Sackville: The first national health service trusts were established in April 1991. The average expenditure per national health service trust on the purchase of healthcare from non-national health service providers is shown in the table.

Year	*Number of NHS trusts*	*Average expenditure on health care from non-NHS providers per NHS trust £000*
1991–92	57	214
1992–93	156	291
1993–94	292	173

Hospital Bed Availability

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital beds in total and by acute, geriatric, maternity and mental illness or disability there were in each district health authority in each of the past five years. [35519]

Mr. Sackville: The information will be placed in the Library.

Ambulance Response Times

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times an ambulance has not arrived within the national charter standard time in each ambulance service area in 1994–95; and what percentage of all responses this number represents. [35530]

Mr. Sackville: The national patients charter standard provides that ambulances responding to an emergency call should arrive at the scene of an incident in 95 per cent. of cases, within 14 minutes for urban services and within 19 minutes of rural services. The figures will be placed in the Library.

NHS Managers

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what is his Department's estimate of the number of doctors and nurses currently classified as managers or senior managers within the NHS. [35587]

Mr. Malone: Detailed information is not collected centrally. However we estimate that about two thirds of the increase in general and senior management numbers between 1991 and 1992 and almost half the increase between 1992 and 1993 may be due to the reclassification of staff from professional and administrative groups as managers.

Primary Health Care

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health authorities have joint or locality commissioning procedures in place within their primary health care teams; what funds or other resources are available in support of such initiatives; and if he will make a statement. [35522]

Mr. Malone: This information is not available centrally. Health authorities are expected to work in partnership with all general practices in their locality in developing and implementing health and service strategies. It is for health authorities and general practices to determine locally what arrangements should be put in place to enable effective joint working.

Cancelled Operations

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library as soon as they are available the number of cancelled operations on the day of, or the day after, admission to hospital by district health authority and/or region and the number not admitted within a month for the first quarter of 1995–96. [35529]

Mr. Malone: Yes

NHS Expenditure

Mrs. Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to his answer of 30 June, *Official Report*, columns *809–10*, what factors account for the increase in the proportion of NHS expenditure on other items; and if he will give a breakdown of this category. [35624]

Mr. Malone: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Female Staff

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35458]

Mr. Sackville: The information shows the position on 1 April 1995.

	Male	*Female*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
UG1	3	0	3	0
UG2	7	0	7	0
UG3	20	7	25	2
UG4	19	8	27	0
UG5	145	56	184	17
UG6	73	48	118	3
UG7	371	192	514	49
SEO	246	100	332	14
AT/HEO(D)	21	10	31	0

	Male	Female	Full-time	Part-time
HEO	361	350	670	41
EO	389	733	1,062	60
AO	347	663	911	99
AA	89	190	245	34
YTS[1]	86	49	125	8

[1] The youth treatment service grades do not easily equate to unified grades.

Staff out on secondment or on loan to other Government Departments, on maternity leave of more than three months, or on unpaid career breaks or study leave are excluded.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the number and percentage of these staff that are women, in his Department and for each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [35688]

Mr. Sackville: The information is shown in the table, which is available only from 1993 and not separately for each of the Department's agencies. Prior to 1993 the information was not collected in this format.

	Total	Female	Female Per cent.
April 1993			
UG1	3	0	0
UG2	9	0	0
UG3	24	6	25
UG4	27	9	33
UG5	221	80	36
UG6	122	45	37
UG7	559	169	30
SEO	390	101	26
AT/HEO(D)	24	13	54
HEO	728	374	51
EO	1,180	760	64
AO	1,209	747	62
AA	279	185	66
YTS[1]	149	58	39
Total	4,924	2,547	52
April 1994			
UG1	3	0	0
UG2	9	1	11
UG3	28	7	25
UG4	25	10	40
UG5	207	63	30
UG6	110	39	35
UG7	540	184	34
SEO	364	114	31
AT/HEO(D)	23	9	39
HEO	720	350	49
EO	1,196	767	64
AO	1,125	765	68
AA	306	205	67
YTS[1]	165	70	42
Total	4,821	2,584	54
April 1995			
UG1	3	0	0
UG2	7	0	0
UG3	27	7	26
UG4	27	8	30
UG5	201	56	28
UG6	121	48	40
UG7	563	192	34
SEO	346	100	29
AT/HEO(D)	31	10	32
HEO	711	350	49
EO	1,122	733	65
AO	1,010	663	66
AA	279	190	68
YTS[1]	135	49	36
Total	4,583	2,406	52

[1] The youth treatment service grades do not easily equate to unified grades.

Staff out on secondment or on loan to other Government Departments, on maternity leave of more than three months, or on unpaid career breaks or study leave are excluded.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35668]

Mr. Sackville: The Department, including its agencies, is committed to equality of opportunity for all its employees regardless of gender. To increase the proportion of women in senior positions, the Department has adopted a number of measures, including:

allowing career breaks and other flexible working patterns to enable women to combine their careers with domestic responsibilities;

providing help to parents with children, including nursery places and holiday play schemes;

providing, whenever possible, management development and training programmes which are suited to the needs of staff with domestic responsibilities for whom attendance at residential courses would not be possible;

ensuring that most job opportunities are advertised and candidates are invited to indicate whether they wish to be considered on full-time, part-time or job-share basis;

appointing whenever possible, at least, one woman on each selection/promotion board.

Additional information on progress made by the Department on Equal Opportunities generally is contained in the Department's 1993–94 equal opportunities progress report, copies of which are available in the Library.

Hypothermia

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths from hypothermia took place among *(a)* men aged 65 years and over and *(b)* women aged 60 years and over in each year from 1990, by region. [34178]

Mr. Sackville *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The information requested for 1993 is shown in the table. I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave him on 25 November 1992, *Official Report*, columns *731–33*, for information for the years 1990 and 1991, and to the reply that I gave him on 4 November 1993, *Official Report*, column *456* for 1992 information.

Numbers of deaths which occurred in 1993 with a mention of hypothermia (ICD 991.6[1]) on the death certificate by regional health authority of usual residence (including Wales), for: (1) males aged 65 years and over; and (2) females aged 60 years and over

Regional health authority	Males	Females
Northern	13	18
Yorkshire	7	25
Trent	14	18
East Anglian	15	17
North West Thames	11	16
North East Thames	15	25
South East Thames	14	21
South West Thames	4	13
Wessex	6	8
Oxford	7	13
South Western	6	16
West Midlands	18	27
Mersey	4	7
Northern Western	8	19
Wales	9	25
Total	151	268

[1] ICD International Classification of Diseases: Ninth Revision.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEPARTMENT

Departmental Staff

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35455]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Details of the number of staff in each civil service grade for which the Lord Chancellor is responsible by *(a)* male and *(b)* female, and by (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees are set out in the following tables.

LCD headquarters: breakdown and non-industrial staff

Grade	Male full-time	Male part-time	Female full-time	Female part-time
Grade 1	1	0	0	0
Grade 2	2	0	0	0
Grade 3	5	0	1	0
Grade 4	1	0	0	0
Grade 5	13	0	4	3
Grade 5 sol	7	0	1	0
Grade 6 senior principal	6	0	3	0
Grade 6 legal	17	0	3	1
DP Registrar	0	0	0	0
Senior legal assistant	0	0	0	0
Grade 7 principal	32	0	28	0
Grade 7 legal	8	0	13	4
Legal assistant	0	0	0	0
Legal officer	0	0	0	0
SEO	41	0	25	2
Senior assistant stats	0	0	0	0
Senior information officer	1	0	0	0
HEO	67	0	87	8
Information officer	1	0	1	0
Assistant stats	0	0	0	0
Chief typing manager	0	0	0	0
Librarian	0	0	0	0
HEO D	5	0	5	0
Admin trainee	2	0	01	0

LCD headquarters: breakdown and non-industrial staff

Grade	Male full-time	Male part-time	Female full-time	Female part-time
EO	82	0	100	6
Assistant information officer	0	0	1	0
Senior personal secretary	0	0	9	0
Typing manager	0	0	4	0
SM1	1	0	0	0
Assistant librarian	0	0	0	0
SM2	0	0	0	0
SM3	0	0	2	0
AO	66	0	84	2
Personal secretary	0	0	18	1
Interpreter	0	0	0	0
AA	10	0	13	0
SGB1	1	0	5	0
SGB2	22	0	11	1
Typist	0	0	29	5
Total	391	0	448	33

Court service: Breakdown of non-industrial staff

Court service	Male full-time	Male part-time	Female full-time	Female part-time
Grade				
Grade 1	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	0	0	0	0
Grade 3	1	0	0	0
Grade 4	3	0	0	0
Grade 5	5	0	0	0
Grade 5 sol	2	0	1	0
Grade 6 senior principal	19	0	5	0
Grade 6 legal	4	0	2	3
DP Registrar	10	0	0	0
Senior legal assistant	1	0	0	1
Grade 7 principal	70	0	17	0
Grade 7 legal	14	0	14	5
Legal assistant	1	0	0	0
Legal officer	0	0	0	0
SEO	150	1	88	3
Senior assistant stats	1	0	0	0
Senior information officer	0	0	0	0
HEO	355	1	372	44
Information officer	0	0	0	0
Assistant stats	0	0	1	0
Chief typing manager	0	0	0	0
Librarian	3	0	5	0
HEO D	1	0	0	0
Admin trainee	0	0	1	0
EO	754	3	1,018	168
Assistant information officer	0	0	0	0
Senior personal secretary	0	0	5	0
Typing manager	0	0	21	0
SM1	1	0	0	0
Assistant librarian	0	0	10	0
SM2	4	0	1	0
SM3	17	0	23	0
AO	1,620	45	2.572	701
Personal secretary	0	0	34	6
Interpreter	0	0	2	0
AA	148	3	294	72
SGB 1	52	0	70	18
SGB 2	421	111	436	393
Typist	1	0	337	249
Total	3,658	164	5,329	1,663

Public trust office: breakdown of non-industrial staff

PTO	Male full-time	Male part-time	Female full-time	Female part-time
Grade				
Grade 1	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	0	0	0	0
Grade 3	0	0	0	0
Grade 4	0	0	1	0
Grade 5	0	0	0	0
Grade 5 sol	0	0	1	0
Grade 6 senior principal	3	0	1	0
Grade 6 legal	2	1	1	0
DP Registrar	0	0	0	0
Senior legal assistant	0	0	0	0
Grade 7 principal	5	0	2	0
Grade 7 legal	0	0	1	0
Legal assistant	0	0	0	0
Legal officer	0	0	0	0
SEO	20	0	7	0
Senior assistant stats	0	0	0	0
Senior information officer	0	0	0	0
HEO	49	0	34	1
Information officer	0	0	0	0
Assistant stats	0	0	0	0
Chief typing manager	0	0	0	0
Librarian	0	0	0	0
HEO D	0	0	0	0
Admin trainee	0	0	0	0
EO	76	0	68	6
Assistant information officer	0	0	0	0
Senior personal secretary	0	0	0	0
Typing manager	0	0	3	0
SM1	0	0	0	0
Assistant librarian	0	0	0	0
SM2	0	0	0	0
SM3	0	0	1	0
AO	85	1	92	8
Personal secretary	0	0	1	0
Interpreter	0	0	0	0
AA	4	0	2	0
SGB1	3	0	2	0
SGB2	17	0	6	0
Typist	0	0	25	12
Total	264	2	248	27

Public record officer: Breakdown of non-industrial staff

PRO	Male full-time	Male part-time	Female full-time	Female part time
Grade				
Grade 1	0	0	0	0
Grade 2	0	0	0	0
Grade 3	0	0	1	0
Grade 4	0	0	0	0
Grade 5	2	0	1	0
Grade 5 sol	0	0	0	0
Grade 6 senior principal	2	0	2	0
Grade 6 legal	0	0	0	0
DP Registrar	0	0	0	0
Senior legal assistant	0	0	0	0
Grade 7 principal	13	1	10	3
Grade 7 legal	0	0	0	0
Legal assistant	0	0	0	0
Legal officer	0	0	0	0
SEO	14	3	15	3
Senior assistant statistician	0	0	0	0
Senior information officer	0	0	0	0

Public record officer: Breakdown of non-industrial staff

PRO	Male full-time	Male part-time	Female full-time	Female part time
HEO	22	2	13	2
Information officer	0	0	0	0
Assistant statistician	0	0	0	0
Chief typing manager	0	0	0	0
Librarian	0	0	0	0
HEO D	0	0	0	0
Administration trainee	0	0	0	0
EO	41	1	16	8
Assistant information officer	0	0	0	0
Senior personal secretary	0	0	1	0
Typing manager	0	0	1	0
SM1	0	0	0	0
Assistant librarian	0	0	0	0
SM2	0	0	4	0
SM3	14	0	2	1
AO	23	2	34	6
Personal secretary	0	0	4	1
Interpreter	0	0	0	0
AA	0	0	3	0
SGB1	21	1	18	3
SGB2	87	4	31	4
Conservation Officer Grade D	1	0	0	0
Conservation Officer Grade E	3	0	0	0
Conservation Officer Grade F	11	0	7	0
Conservation Officer Grade G	1	0	2	0
Museum support grade 2	0	0	1	0
Museum support grade 3	2	0	3	3
Typist	0	0	3	2
Total	257	14	172	36

Her Majesty's Land Registry: Breakdown of non-industrial staff

Grade	Male full-time	Male part-time	Female full-time	Female part-time
Grade 2	1	0	0	0
Grade 3	1	0	0	0
Grade 4	1	0	0	0
Grade 5	2	0	1	0
Land Registrar (grade 5 lawyer)	15	0	2	0
Senior Registration Administrator 1 (grade 6)	23	0	0	0
Senior Assistant Land Registrar (grade 6 lawyer)	18	0	2	0
Senior Registration Administrator 2 (grade 7)	44	0	2	0
Assistant Land Registrar (grade 7 lawyer)	49	3	21	16
Registration Executive 1 (Senior Executive Officer)	230	8	38	7
Registration Executive 2 (Higher Executive Officer; Chief Typing Manager; Support Manager 1)	391	5	138	29

Her Majesty's Land Registry: Breakdown of non-industrial staff

Grade	*Male full-time*	*Male part-time*	*Female full-time*	*Female part-time*
Registration Executive 3 (Executive Officer; Senior Personal Secretary; Typing Manager; Support Manager 2; Support Manager 3)	906	26	950	370
Registration Officer 2 (Administrative Officer; Personal Secretary; support grade band 1)	992	24	1,718	580
Registration Assistant 1 (Administrative Assistant; Typist; Trainee Typist)	280	6	1,073	457
Registration Assistant 2 (support grade band 2)	298	21	211	98
Her Majesty's Land Registry totals	3,251	93	4,156	1,557

County Courts

Mr. Tim Devlin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what additional legal expenditure has been made as a result of closing county courts since 1992. [35119]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The information requested is not available. For civil legal aid, records are maintained by the Legal Aid Board by legal aid area, and not by court location.

Legal Aid

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many *(a)* single people and *(b)* married couples refused an offer of contributory legal aid in each of the last five years. [35625]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The number of contributory civil legal aid offers made but not accepted in each of the last five years for which information is available are shown in the table. This information can not be broken down according to marital status.

Year	*Contributory legal aid offers made but not taken up*
1990–91	16,164
1991–92	19,179
1992–93	n/a
1993–94	26,399
1994–95	n/a

n/a—not available.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will list the level of weekly disposable income below which *(a)* free legal aid and *(b)* contributory legal aid was available in (i) 1979, (ii) 1993, (iii) 1994 and (iv) 1995; what was the percentage of the adult population eligible for *(a)* and *(b)* in each of those years; and what is the present day value in real terms of these disposable income levels. [85545]

Mr. John. M. Taylor: The information requested is not readily available. I will reply as soon as possible and will also write to the hon. Member.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many *(a)* single people and *(b)* married couples have been eligible for (i) free legal aid and (ii) contributory legal aid for each of the last five years; and what percentage of the adult population these figures represent for each of these years. [35543]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Lord Chancellor's Department does not make separate estimates of the financial eligibility of single and married people.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what was the value of the savings to the legal aid fund of the 1993 abolition of the contributory element of green form advice in the financial years 1993–94 and 1994–95. [35544]

Mr. John M. Taylor: It is difficult to identify separately the effects of each element in the package of changes made in April 1993. However, it is estimated that the abolition of contributory green form advice and assistance resulted in savings of about £4 million in 1993–94 and £9 million in 1994–95.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what was the difference in the level of disposable income above which *(a)* free legal aid and *(b)* contributory legal aid was not available before and after the 1993 changes in financial eligibility. [35546]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The information requested is set out in the table.

	Free limit	*Upper limit*
April 1992		
Civil	£3,060 per annum	£6,800 per annum
Civil (personal injury)	£3,060 per annum	£7,500 per annum
Criminal	£65 per week	no upper limit
April 1993		
Civil	£2,294 per annum	£6,800
Civil (personal injury)	£2,294 per annum	£7,500
Criminal	£45 per week	no upper limit

Family Mediation

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what additional funding he is making available for mediation work following his changes to divorce law. [35536]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Government's proposal is to ask the Legal Aid Board to take on responsibility for the funding of family mediation for those who are financially eligible. The Lord Chancellor hopes to bring forward legislation to implement this in due course.

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how much his Department has spent on mediation services, directly and indirectly, through resources made available to other organisations in the last five years, by region. [35533]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The information requested is not readily available. I shall write to the hon. Member providing the information requested in so far as is possible.

Court Service

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what is his policy on the future of *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* county courts in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [36135]

Mr. John M. Taylor: As far as the future of *(a)* magistrates courts in Wales is concerned, my policy is the same as that for England. That is, following implementation of part IV of the Police and Magistrates' Courts Act 1994, that magistrates courts will continue to be administered by magistrates courts committees made up mostly, if not entirely, of local magistrates. The powers and responsibilities of magistrates courts committees have been enhanced by the 1994 Act and they now have a clear statutory responsibility to conduct the administration of the magistrates' courts efficiently and effectively. So far as *(b)* the county courts in Wales are concerned, this is an operational matter for the Court Service. I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from Michael Huebner to Mr. Barry Jones, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department has asked me to reply to your Question about the future of the county courts in Wales.

The Court Service must continually review its network of courts to ensure that the best use is made of resources. Factors taken into account in that process include workload levels, the accessibility of alternative courts and the cost of providing satisfactory standards of service. There is no separate policy on county courts in Wales, which are subject to the same process of individual review and assessment as courts elsewhere.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34699]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the United Kingdom economy.

Government continue to help smaller companies by keeping inflation and interest rates low and by reducing legislative and administrative and taxation burdens. It also provides direct assistance when appropriate.

The second competitiveness White Paper announced in May 1955 outlines a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

My Department has improved its payment record to 93.5 per cent. of invoices paid on time, a fair proportion of which will be of benefit to small firms, and a target of 95 per cent. has been set for this financial year. Details of the special contracts arrangement have been sent to all my Department's purchasing officers.

Inheritance Law

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will ask the Law Commission to examine the law with regard to inheritance, with particular reference to its implications for those of Islamic faith. [34325]

Mr. John M. Taylor: There are no plans to do so.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as www.open.gov.uk and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34680]

Mr. John M. Taylor: My Department has already published the current Courts Charter on the citizens charter pages of the Government world wide web server and the revised version will be made available in September. General information about the Department, with extracts from its strategic plan, and a summary of the recent legal aid consultation paper will be published in the next month. The Court Service is planning to make a wide range of explanatory material on how to use the courts available on its own section of the server in the near future. The Public Trust Office is planning a feasibility study to consider use of this service in the next year.

Child Maintenance

Mr. David Atkinson: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if legal aid is available to obtain child maintenance through the Child Support Agency; and if he will make a statement. [34296]

Mr. John M. Taylor: Full civil legal aid is only available for representation in proceedings through the courts and is not, therefore, available to obtain child maintenance through the Child Support Agency. However, if a person qualifies financially, he or she may obtain legal advice and assistance under the green form scheme.

Working Group on Financial Penalties

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, pursuant to the answer of 22 June, *Official Report*, columns *398–400*, if he will list the membership of the working group on the enforcement of financial penalties; when he expects the working group on the enforcement of financial penalties to report; and if he will make a statement. [36176]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The working group on the enforcement of financial penalties is chaired by a senior official from my Department and, as well as other members of the Department, includes representatives from the Home Office, Magistrates' Association, Justices' Clerks' Society, Central Council of Magistrates' Courts' Committees, Association of Magisterial Offices and the Magistrates' Courts' inspectorate. The working group is expected to continue for at least a year, but it hopes to be in a position to

issue guidance to the magistrates courts as and when conclusions are reached during that period.

Asylum Appeals

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, columns *210–11*, what proportion of without foundation asylum appeals were determined within the time-scale prescribed by the Asylum Appeals (Procedure) Rules, in *(a)* 1994 and *(b)* 1995 to date. [35752]

Mr. John M. Taylor: In *(a)* and *(b)*, no 'without foundation' appeals were determined within the time limit of seven days set out in the rules.

The cases are usually listed for hearing within seven days. A proportion, however, are adjourned at the request of the appellants' representatives to a date outside the specified time limit.

Defamation Law

Mr. Fabricant: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what plans the Government have to reform defamation law and proceedings. [36382]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Lord Chancellor has today published a draft Defamation Bill which has been prepared to show in detail how the Government would implement proposals for a number of important reforms to bring defamation law up to date and to improve and simplify the procedures.

The proposals include a new summary procedure to allow judges to dispose quickly of straightforward and less serious defamation claims; a new defence of offer of amends; and a reduction, from three years to one year, of the time within which defamation proceedings can begin.

As drafted, most of these clauses would apply to England and Wales only. The Government will consider how far it may be appropriate for some or all of the reforms to be adopted in Northern Ireland and Scotland, taking into account the similarities as well as the differences which exist in the defamation laws and procedures applicable in those jurisdictions.

Judges' Lodgings

Mr. Fabricant: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department when the Lord Chancellor expects to receive the report by the chief executive of the Court Service on his review of judges' lodgings. [36383]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The Lord Chancellor's policy objective on judges' lodgings is to provide accommodation affording satisfactory working conditions and appropriate levels of security, privacy and comfort to High Court judges when they are on circuit; and to do so in an economic, efficient and accountable manner.

Last July the Lord Chancellor instructed the chief executive of the Court Service to carry out a review of the current lodgings and to submit a report making recommendations concerning the optimum means of managing and staffing lodgings. Copies of the report have today been placed in the Library of the House.

The Lord Chancellor will be considering the report in consultation with the Lord Chief Justice.

Justices of the Peace

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will give the number of Labour and Conservative justices of the peace in *(a)* Grimsby and Cleethorpes, *(b)* Scunthorpe and *(c)* Hull and *(d)* Beverley. [36229]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The number of Labour and Conservative justices of the peace, based on the latest information available, is as follows:

Petty sessional division	*Conservative*	*Labour*
Grimsby and Cleethorpes	52	36
Scunthorpe, Bragg and Barton	27	8
Hull	80	33
Beverley	3	4

Court Security

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what plans he has to alter the security and security staffing arrangements at *(a)* London Crown court centres, *(b)* the Central Criminal Court and *(c)* the Royal Courts of Justice. [35741]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about plans to alter security and security staffing arrangements at:

(a) London Crown Court Centres;

(b) the Central Criminal Court; and

(c) the Royal Courts of Justice

I should begin by saying that security and security staffing arrangements at the Central Criminal Court are the responsibility of the Corporation of London, although they comply fully with the standards for all courts, which are laid down by the Department.

There are no current plans to alter the security staffing arrangements at the other locations to which you referred.

A general security review of all court buildings is being undertaken to ensure that current standards are appropriate and are being achieved. Following recommendations made in a separate review of security in the Royal Courts of Justice, a rolling programme of improvements is under way.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what progress has been made on the local county court system under the private finance initiative. [35744]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about progress on the local county court system under the Private Finance Initiative.

The Court Service's requirement for the provision of information system services to county courts was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Community on 16 May 1995 under reference 95/S92—46794/EN. Potential suppliers were advised that the requirement was considered suitable for the application of the Private Finance Initiative. Thirty suppliers responded and were sent a detailed Statement of Operational Requirements. Initial proposals were subsequently received from a number of suppliers and these are being evaluated, prior to the announcement of a shortlist. The procurement exercise is being conducted under the EC Services Directive Negotiated Procedures. We expect to award a contract to commence in June 1996.

Court Computer Systems

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many bids have been received for work on *(a)* the extension of the CASEMAN county court computer system and *(b)* the renewal of the CREST Crown court computer system; what is the likely cost to public funds of each of these projects; and if he will list the names of any companies, and the value of the contracts awarded to them, with respect to (i) value for money work and (ii) other consultancy work for these projects. [35740]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the number of bids that have been received and the likely cost of work on

(a) the extension of the CASEMAN County Court computer system, and

(b) the renewal of the CREST Crown Court computer system, with the names of any companies awarded consultancy contracts and the value of those contracts.

The CASEMAN computer system forms part of the LOCCS project, which is designed to provide comprehensive computer support to local county courts. The project is subject to a Private Finance Initiative procurement exercise, which was advertised in the Official journal of the European Community on 16 May 1995.

The following companies have been awarded contracts to provide consultancy advice and specialist skills to the procurement project:

KERMON Ltd. of Amersham, Bucks

AMTEC Consulting, of Farnham, Surrey

CSS Trident, of Hemel Hempstead, Herts

Charterhouse Bank Ltd.

The value of these contracts is not fixed, but will be determined by the specific services delivered by each company. Since this is a competitive tendering exercise, I cannot, at this stage, give an estimate of the likely cost of the LOCCS project.

There are no current plans to replace the CREST system. However, under the terms of the Private Finance Initiative, bidders are free to offer to provide other services, and it is possible that some might express an interest in the CREST system. If this is the case we will consider whether or not it should be included in the eventual contract.

Court Functions

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what representation he has received, and whether he has taken legal advice, as to whether some of the functions to be carried out by the local county court system are judicial in nature within the terms of schedule 16(2) to the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994. [35775]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the functions to be carried out by the Local County Court Systems (LOCCS).

The development of the system has not reached the point at which it covers any function which might be defined as judicial, under the terms of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994. This would become an issue only if the system was developed to cover such functions and if its operation were to be considered for contracting out, for example in the context of the Private Finance procurement exercise which is currently under way. In that event legal advice would be taken before any decision was made.

County Court Hearings

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department in how many of the total number of cases before the county court, excluding family law cases, an individual plaintiff or defendant was opposed by *(a)* the Government or its representatives or a public body or its representatives *(b)* a company for each of the past five years. [35547]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the number of cases in which an individual plaintiff or defendant was opposed by the Government or a company.

I am sorry to have to tell you that this information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Court Buildings (Access)

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what research his Department has carried out in the last 10 years into disabled people's access to court buildings and courtrooms in England and Wales; and what plans he has to commission further research. [35539]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about research into disabled people's access to court buildings and courtrooms in the last ten years.

The Lord Chancellor's Department took over responsibility for the design of court buildings from the Property Services Agency (PSA) in 1992. Prior to 1992, the PSA consulted a number of groups representing disabled court users in developing its standards, which comply with statutory requirements including relevant Building Regulations. These standards have been maintained or improved since responsibility passed to the Lord Chancellor's Department. We plan to hold further consultations with disabled court users groups to discuss how best to meet the requirements of the Disability Bill, currently at committee stage in the House of Lords.

Court Facilities

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many courts in England and Wales were equipped with *(a)* clearly marked signs using a minimum typeface of 12 points and materials in large print, *(b)* human aid to communications including sign language provision and *(c)* induction loops, for each of the last five years. [35541]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department has asked me to reply to your Question about the number of courts, for each of the last five years, equipped with

(a) clearly marked signs using a minimum typeface of 12 points and materials in large print,

(b) human aid to communications including sign language provision, and

(c) induction loops.

I am afraid that, in the time available, it has not been possible to obtain the information sought under a) or to cover more than the current position under b) and c). The figures are as follows; b) 6 and c) 27.

Courts in the Royal Courts of Justice and the Principal Registry of the Family Division do not have induction loops. However, four courtrooms have infrared hearing systems and there are also four portable hearing aid systems.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how many courts in England and Wales were equipped with facilities, including toilet access for *(a)* blind and partially sighted people, *(b)* hard of hearing and deaf people and *(c)* wheelchair users for each of the last five years. [35542]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the number of courts, for each of the last five years, equipped with facilities, including toilet access, for

(a) blind and partially sighted people,

(b) hard of hearing and deaf people, and

(c) wheelchair users.

I am afraid that in the time available it has not been possible to obtain the information sought under a) or to cover more than the current position under b) and c). The figures are as follows; b) 27 and c) 69.

Litigants in Person

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department in how many *(a)* matrimonial cases and *(b)* civil non-matrimonial cases in each of the last five years one of the parties was a litigant in person. [35540]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department has asked me to reply to his Question about the number of cases in which one of the parties was a litigant in person.

I am sorry to have to tell you that this information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Liverpool Combined Court Centre

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what additional steps have been taken to ensure the personal safety and security of members of the public, the judiciary, the legal profession and court staff at Liverpool combined court centre; what additional powers of search and arrest have been given to court staff and private security contractual workers; on what legal authority those powers are to be exercised; and what steps are being taken to ensure that private security contractual workers are properly vetted, trained and equipped and that they comply fully with their contractual obligations. [35738]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about steps taken to ensure personal safety and security at the Liverpool Combined Court Centre.

The Department sets minimum security standards, which apply to all courts, including Liverpool Combined Court. Neither court staff nor private security contractors have additional powers of search or arrest.

The Department's standard security contract requires contractors to demonstrate that they have effective systems in place for vetting and training their staff and that they will be properly equipped. Performance against the terms of each contract is closely monitored by local managers and is reviewed at regular meetings between the contractors and staff from the appropriate Circuit Office.

Summons Production Centre

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what plans he has for the future of the work and the staff at the *(a)* Summons Production Centre and *(b)* County Court Bulk Centre in Northampton. [35743]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the future of the Summons Production Centre and the County Court Bulk Centre at Northampton.

At present there are no plans affecting the future of the work and the staff at the Summons Production Centre. There are plans to extend the functions covered by the County Court Bulk Centre to provide for users to issue attachment of earnings applications. The centralisation of attachment of earnings payments is also under consideration. The work of both centres is supported by computer systems which have been included in the Local County Court System Private Finance Initiative project because of their link with local county courts.

Civil Courts Recovery Programme

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will publish the latest figures on his Department's full-cost recovery programme in the civil courts. [35739]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Paul Boateng, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about the full-cost recovery programme in the civil courts.

I am able to let you know that the cost recovery targets for the civil courts for each of the next three years are as follows:

1995/96: £244 million

1996/97: £281 million

1997/98: £291 million

Bilingual Forms

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will list all standard forms commonly issued to the public by the Probate Office in Wales, indicating which are available bilingually and which are available in the English language only; if he will make it his policy to secure the use of bilingual forms by all probate offices in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [35484]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Cynog Dafis, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the availability of bilingual forms in probate offices in Wales.

At present the only bilingual form issued to the public by the Probate Office in Wales is the Grant of Probate. However, in accordance with the Welsh Language Act 1993, the Court Service is currently developing a Welsh Language Scheme which will set out its policy for accommodating the needs of Welsh speakers when delivering a service to all members of the public in Wales. This will build on the policy statement already in place for Welsh speakers who use the courts, and will include full details of the service which will be provided to welsh speakers using Probate Offices in Wales. It will set out a timetable for the provision of bilingual forms, concentrating on those which are most commonly used and taking account of the availability of resource. It is intended that the scheme will be in place by the end of the year.

Local County Court System

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department how the Woolf Commission recommendation of greater control of case progression by the judiciary will be achieved under the market testing of the County Courts LOCCS project. [35322]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. John McAllion, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about how greater judicial control of case progression will be achieved under the market testing of the county court Local County Court System (LOCCS) project.

The Private Finance Initiative is not a market testing exercise but is a procurement project designed to obtain information technology services in support of the LOCCS project. Lord Woolf's interim report draws attention to the need for active judicial case management, supported by computer. The LOCCS system will provide a comprehensive electronic database to support a wide range of county court functions, including a case progression.

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will make a statement in relation to the market test of the Department's county courts LOCCS project, on the judicial areas of work, or areas of work advising the judiciary, that will be prevented from being contracted out under the Courts Act 1991 as amended. [35332]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. John McAllion, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the market test of the Department's County Courts LOCCS project on the judicial areas of work, or areas of work advising the judiciary, that will be prevented from being contracted out under the Courts Act 1991, as amended.

I should first say that the LOCCS project is not being market tested. It is however, the subject of a Private Finance Initiative procurement exercise, designed to obtain information technology services in support of the project.

The Courts Act 1971, as amended by the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 permits the Lord Chancellor to contract certain functions of court staff. However, such functions do not include judicial functions nor giving advice on judicial functions. Before exercising the power to contract out, the Lord Chancellor must consult the Senior Judiciary. The power is exercisable by order which is subject to Parliamentary Scrutiny.

Any decision to contract out the function of LOCCS will be subject to the above limitations.

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will make a statement on the future of the 250 county courts in England and Wales following the market testing of the Department's LOCCS project and the need to retain local access to justice. [35321]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. John McAllion, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the future of county courts and the policy of retaining local access to justice, following the market testing of the Local County Court System (LOCCS) project.

The Private Finance Initiative is not a market testing exercise, but it is a procurement project designed to obtain information technology services in support of the LOCCS project. The LOCCS computer system will provide high quality computer support to all local county courts and will improve both the quality of service we provide to court users and the efficiency with which that service is provided.

County Court Bulk Centre

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will make a statement on the future of the county court bulk centre and the summons production centre in Northampton, including the possibility of privatisation under the private finance initiative or any chance of location. [35331]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. John McAllion, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about the future of the County Court Bulk Centre (CCBC) and Summons Production Centre (SPC).

The Department has not specifically proposed that the functions of either the CCBC or SPC be contracted out under the LOCCS PFI project. However, one of the fundamental principles of the Private Finance Initiative is that the Department is obliged to offer scope for suppliers to make wide proposals for the provision of services.

I am not, at this stage, able to say what services bidders may propose to provide.

Litigants (Travelling Time)

Mr. Devlin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will make a statement on the maximum time litigants should be expected to travel to a county court. [35110]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Tim Devlin, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about the maximum travel times for litigants.

There is no maximum time limit for how long litigants can be expected to travel to a county court. However, this is taken into account, along with a number of other factors, when consideration is given to where a court is best located. These factors include, for example, the availability of public transport, the level of workload likely to be generated in a particular location and the cost of providing appropriate facilities for court users.

Courts (Travelling Times)

Mr. Devlin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if the Court Service business and corporation plan will include policies on the distribution of courts and travelling times to them. [35112]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Tim Devlin, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about whether the Court Service Business and Corporate Plans will include policies for the distribution of courts and the travelling times to them.

The purpose of the Court Service Business and Corporate Plans is to set out the aims and objectives of the Court Service, providing details of the activities through which it will seek to achieve them and the resources it has available to do so. There are no plans to include policy matters such as those you suggest. However, the Court Service Accommodation Plan, which is a published document, sets out the criteria to be considered in reviewing the location of a court, for example when considering the possibility of a closure. These include the availability of public transport, the location of the nearest alternative court and the cost of providing appropriate facilities for court users.

County Court Closures

Mr. Devlin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what savings to his Department have accrued as a result of closing county courts since 1992. [35118]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Tim Devlin, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about savings which have accrued as a result of closing county courts since 1992.

At present day values the savings on accommodation costs amount to £196,000. There are still five properties in the process of being disposed of. In addition, there have been significant savings in terms of management overheads, maintenance, equipment rental, staff travel and general running costs which I am unable to quantify in the time available.

Mr. Tim Devlin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will list by year, all the county courts upon which consultation for possible closure was issued in each year since 1992. [35114]

Mr. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Tim Devlin, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about the details of those courts that have been through the consultation process for possible closure since 1992.

No separate record is kept of those courts that have been the subject of consultation but which did not proceed to closure. In the majority of cases where consultation has taken place it has led to the closure of the court. This is because any case for closure submitted by a Circuit Administrator must satisfy a series of stringent criteria before the Lord Chancellor will allow it to proceed to consultation. This means that only the strongest cases for closure ever reach the consultation stage.

Mr. Devlin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will list all the county courts closed in *(a)* 1992, *(b)* 1993, *(c)* 1994 and *(d)* 1995 to date. [35113]

Mr. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Tim Devlin, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about the county courts closed during the years 1992–1995.

The county courts closed since 1992 are:

1992

Northallerton
Maldon
Westminster
Bloomsbury
Gainsborough
Great Malvern
Beverley

1993

East Grinstead
Whitby
Malton
Hexham
Thorne

1994

Devizes
Frome
Clacton
Sevenoaks
Sheerness
Sudbury
Bangor
Stroud
Lampeter
Liskeard
Axminster and Chard
Launceston
Ellesmere Port
Shaftesbury
Porthmadog
Stockton on Tees

1995

Amersham

Mr. Devlin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department if he will list the county courts currently being considered for possible closure. [35115]

Mr. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Tim Devlin, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to the above Question about county courts currently being considered for closure.

Those county courts currently under consideration for possible closure and which are the subject of public consultation, are:

Alfreton
Ammanford
Bargoed
Barry
Brentwood
Cardigan
Chippenham
Dover
Folkestone
Gravesend
Ilkeston
Llandrindod Wells
Market Drayton
Matlock
Newton Abbott
Otley
St. Austell
Sittingbourne
Sleaford
Spalding
Wisbech

Mr. Devlin: To ask the Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department what consideration was given to the report of Lord Woolf prior to the decision to close three county courts in Derbyshire. [35111]

Mr. John M. Taylor: The question concerns a specific operational matter on which the chief executive of the Court Service is best placed to provide an answer and I have accordingly asked the chief executive to reply direct.

Letter from M. D. Huebner to Mr. Tim Devlin, dated 19 July 1995:

The Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, has asked me to reply to your Question about what consideration was given to Lord Woolf's report prior to the decision to close three county courts in Derbyshire.

I can confirm that no recent decisions have been made to close any county courts in Derbyshire. However, the Lord Chancellor has recently agreed to commence public consultation about the proposed closure of three courts in that County. These courts are at Alfreton, Ilkeston and Matlock. I should emphasise that no decision with regard to any of these proposed closures will be taken until after the public consultation exercise has been completed and responses analysed.

Any implications flowing from Lord Woolf's report will be considered before a final decision is taken.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Gitarama Prison, Rwanda

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many prisoners have died at Gitarama prison in Rwanda since the end of the war; of what causes they have died; and what measures the international community is taking to reduce the number of deaths. [34368]

Mr. Hanley: The International Committee of the Red Cross believes that just over 2,000 people have died in 13 Rwandan prisons in the last year, most through health problems caused by overcrowding. Many of these were in Gitarama. The international community has committed $3.5 million through the United Nations Development Programme to improve prison conditions, including the construction of new facilities. Help is also being given to rebuild the judicial system to allow speedier processing of cases; Britain has committed over £750,000 for this purpose.

St. Helena

Dr. Marek: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made to improve communications with St. Helena with reference to *(a)* the purchase of a shuttle ship to Ascension and *(b)* the construction of an airstrip on the island. [34903]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to his answer of 12 July, *Official Report*, column *590*, which consultants were employed in connection with the aid programme. [35489]

Mr. Hanley *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

China

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the People's Republic of China received from the overseas aid budget during financial year 1994–95; and if he will list the major projects funded. [36239]

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will list those Chinese provinces which *(a)* do not have systems of birth permits, birth quotas and birth targets and *(b)* do not have legislation limiting the right freely to found a family and decide the numbers and spacing of any children. [360901]

(2) what steps he has taken to fulfil the recommendation of the Foreign Affairs Committee to seek further information on population control in China; [36107]

(3) what specific discussions wee held by the delegation led by Lord Howe on the subject of coercive population control during its visit to China in December 1992; [35980]

(4) if he will make a statement on the role of the Chinese Family Planning Association in promoting the one child policy; [36103]

(5) if he will make a statement on the humane population policies that have been adopted by the Chinese Government as a result of United Nations Population Fund assistance with China's censuses in *(a)*1980 and *(b)* 1990; [35985]

(6) if his Department classifies the one child policy in China as a coercive population policy; and if he will make a statement; [36101]

(7) what information he has on the number of female contraceptive acceptors in China *(a)* in total and *(b)* expressed as a percentage of the number of potential child bearing women; [35982]

(8) what account he takes of the *(a)* absence or presence of child safety insurance, *(b)* housing, *(c)* employment provision and *(d)* nursery and elementary education provision for Chinese families with more than one child in allocating funding from his Department; [36100]

(9) what account he takes of the methods used to ensure compliance with China's one child policy in allocating ODA funding; and if he will make a statement on the methods; [36092]

(10) if he will make a statement on the practice in China of X-raying women using IUDs every three months; and if he will make a statement; [36108]

(11) if the delegation led by Lord Howe visited *(a)* the Chinese State Family Planning Commission, *(b)* the Chinese Family Planning Association, *(c)* the UNFPA mission and *(d)* any population control facility or offices during its visit to China in 1992; [35981]

(12) if he will make a statement on the humane population policies that the UNFPA advocated to the Chinese Government in connection with China's censuses of *(a)* 1980 and *(b)* 1990; [35986]

(13) in what respects China's one child policy breaches the UN guaranteed human right freely to found a family and decide the number and spacing of children; [36102]

(14) if the issue of coercive population control was raised with the Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister at the meeting in New York on 18 April; and if he will make a statement; [35984]

(15) what account he takes of the number of Chinese regional laws that specify obligatory contraception and their origins in a national draft law in allocating ODA funding; [36090]

(16) if he will make a statement on the incident reported on page 14 of "People and Development Challenges" of 3 May, a copy of which he has received in respect of coercive population control regulations against families in Feixian county, Shandong province; and what assessment he has made of the reliability of *(a)* the Chinese Family Planning Association and *(b)* the International Planned Parenthood Federation statements on coercive population control. [35955]

Mr. Hanley: I will write to the hon. Members.

Nigeria

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations he has made to the government of Nigeria about the holding of political prisoners; and in respect of which individuals he has made representations; [35763]

(2) what representations he has made to the government of Nigeria about the holding of secret trials; and which prisoners were involved; [35764]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth about the situation in Nigeria; and if he will make a statement; [35765]

(4) if he supports the sanctions imposed by the United States of America on Nigeria; and if he will impose similar sanctions; [35766]

(5) what representations he has made to British oil companies about their activities in Nigeria; [35767]

(6) which military links and arms trading with Nigeria he intends to sustain; [35768]

(7) what consideration he has given to the suspension of Nigeria from the Commonwealth; [35769]

(8) what action had been decided upon by the European Union in respect of the conduct by the Government of Nigeria; [35770]

(9) what aid support is given by *(a)* the British Government and *(b)* the European Union to Nigeria; and what proposals he has to end such support. [35771]

Mr. Hanley: I will write to the hon. Member.

Arms Exports (Rwanda)

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has received concerning the activities of British companies exporting arms to Rwandan exiles, with particular reference to former members of the Rwanda Government via third countries. [36309]

Mr. Hanley: I will write to the hon. Member.

Indonesia

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will list the annual expenditure of his Department on the Bandung TV studio project in Indonesia before it was withdrawn from the overseas aid programme; [36325]

(2) if he will make it his policy to monitor the post-training careers of Indonesian police officers who have received any form of training paid for by his Department; [36327]

(3) which Indonesian companies were involved in the Bali and Medan airport security project in Indonesia; on what date his Department received from the DTI a formal request to appraise the project referring to his Under-Secretary's letter of 31 May; what considerations made it necessary for the DTI to submit the project to the sub-committee for aid and trade, SCAT before his Department had appraised the project; on what date his Department completed its appraisal of the project; who his Department engaged to appraise the project; on what date site visits were made for the purposes of the appraisal and by whom the visits were made; at the time of the economic appraisal, what were (i) the "present value" of the cost, (ii) the "present value" of the benefits of the project, and (iii) how the actual cost and benefits compared with those foreseen at the time of the appraisal; when his Department carried out an institutional appraisal in respect of the directorate general of air communications and what was the outcome of that appraisal; what factors were taken into account in assessing whether the project represented "value for money"; on what date the Treasury gave its consent to the project; on what date the project was approved by SCAT; on what date the project was approved by the Minister; in what respect and to what extent the project benefited the poorest people in Indonesia; what was *(a)* the approved cash cost and *(b)* the actual cash cost of the project; what were (1) the projected completion dates and (2) the actual completion date of the project; and if he will place a copy of the project completion report in the Library. [36319]

Mr. Hanley: I will write to the hon. Member.

Natural Resources Institute

Mr. Robert G. Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what performance targets he has set in the 1995–96 financial year for the Overseas Development Administration's executive agency, the Natural Resources Institute. [36609]

Mr. Hanley: This is a transitional year for the institute during which it will be undertaking a major restructuring exercise. It will be working during this period to the following principal targets:

Restructuring. To implement, by the end of the 1995–96 financial year, an agreed programme of restructuring measures identified in the light of a recently completed study of the institute's future business prospects. Specifically:

(a) to reorganise the institute's management commands;

(b) to manage a voluntary severance programme aimed at reducing staff numbers to an indicative level of 360; and

(c) to formulate an accommodation strategy for the smaller Institute.

Unit revenue. While implementing this programme, to maintain an average revenue of £67,750 per operational year of time charged to clients for a minimum of 260 operational years.

External business. To increase the number of operational years of work for non-ODA clients, and the value of retained income from this source, by 10 per cent.

Commonwealth Development Corporation

Mr. Robert G. Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what follow-up there has been to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the efficiency and costs of, and the service provided by, the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). [36610]

Mr. Hanley: The Government's first response to the report on the Commonwealth Development Corporation by the MMC was reported to the House on 25 March 1993, *Official Report*, columns *653-54*. I have today placed in the Library of the House a further and final response by the Government and the CDC. This reports on progress in implementation of MMC recommendations and updates earlier responses to these taking account of the outcome of the quinquennial review of the CDC as reported to Parliament on 3 May 1994 and the corporation's own reviews of strategy and management, and the passage of the Commonwealth Development Corporation Act 1995.

Mr. Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Commonwealth Development Corporation has been authorised to operate in additional countries. [36611]

Mr. Hanley: Following a request from the corporation, approval has been given for the CDC to operate in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cuba. In accordance with the strategic targets set out in the quinquennial review CDC will aim to give priority in the private sector.

TRANSPORT

Child Pedestrian Accidents

Mr. Hawkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will publish the recent Transport Research Laboratory reports on child pedestrian accidents. [35940]

Mr. Norris: The two TRL reports on this subject, project reports 116 and 117, have been published today and I have placed copies in the Library.

Aston Clinton Bypass

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce his decision following the 1994 public inquiry into the proposed A41 Aston Clinton bypass; and if he will make a statement. [36384]

Mr. Watts: The Secretary of State for Transport has decided, jointly with the Secretary of State for the Environment, that the supplementary orders of the scheme should be made, subject to minor modifications. The decision is in accordance with the recommendations of the inspector. A copy of his report and a letter notifying the decision will be sent to interested parties shortly.

Coach Safety

Dame Jill Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether coach safety was discussed at the informal Transport Council on 15 July. [36629]

Mr. Watts: The matter of coach safety was added to the agenda of the informal Transport Council following the recent tragic accidents in France and the United Kingdom.

I stressed the good safety record of buses and coaches and the value of spot checks such as our recent Operation Tourist crackdown in enforcing both standards of maintenance and drivers' hours regulations.

I called upon all member states to give a greater commitment to reaching agreement on the proposed directive to require the fitting of seat belts on all new coaches and minibuses and referred to the consultation on our proposed regulations covering the fitment of seat belts to minibuses and coaches used for the transportation of children.

I acknowledged the need for further work on standards to be set for bus and coach construction but defended the British double decker against any suggestion that it had any inherent safety problems.

Fuel Duty Rebate

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will restore fuel duty rebate for all buses and coaches which conform to the revised Euro-emission standards. [34399]

Mr. Norris: There are no plans to do so.

Transport Works

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration was given to major transport works during the deliberations of the highway authorities and utilities committee working party before *(a)* the drafting and implementation of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and *(b)* before the drafting and implementation of the Street Works (Sharing of Cost of Works) Regulation 1992, SI No. 1690 of 1992. [34923]

Mr. Norris: The working party undertook its work in 1987 and 1988. It was concerned with highway works and bridge works, including cases where the works were initiated by a transport undertaking. Highway works carried out by a transport undertaking are "major transport works" in terms of the definition used in the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he or his Ministers have met representatives of the national joint utilities group to discuss shared costs of diversionary transport works; and if he will make a statement. [34921]

Mr. Norris: Ministers from this Department have met representatives of the utilities, most recently in June 1994, to discuss the utilities' request for a change in the existing cost-sharing arrangements.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will make a statement on the application of section 85(1) of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 as it applies to major transport works; [34933]

(2) if he will make a statement on the application of the Street Works (Sharing of Cost of Works) Regulation 1992, SI No. 1690 of 1992 to major transport works. [34918]

Mr. Norris: Section 85(1) of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 provides that, where an undertaker's apparatus in a street has to be moved or protected—actions commonly known as "diversionary works"—as a result of major highway works, major bridge works or major transport works, the allowable costs of the diversionary works are to be shared between the undertaker and the promoter in such manner as may be prescribed. The Street Works (Sharing of Costs of Works) Regulations 1992 prescribe that costs are to be shared in the proportion 18 per cent. to the undertaker and 82 per cent. to the promoter in all three cases.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if the definition of major transport works used by his Department includes public transport developments. [34919]

Mr. Norris: The definition to be used for the purposes of parts III and IV of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 is set out in sections 91(2) and 150(2) of that Act as follows:

"'major transport works' means substantial works required for the purposes of a transport undertaking and executed in property held or used for the purposes of the undertaking".

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list those representations he received during his Department's consideration of shared costs of diversionary transport works; and if he will make a statement. [34922]

Mr. Norris: Some 35 representations were received in response to the consultation letter issued in February 1993. Others have been received subsequently. The representations include a number both from public transport operators and from utilities.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he or his Ministers have met representatives of the passenger transport executives group to discuss shared costs of diversionary transport works; and if he will make a statement. [34920]

Mr. Norris: No, but I am aware of the passenger transport executives' views on the subject and will invite them to a meeting if this seems likely to help in reaching a decision on it.

Coach Parking (London)

Mr. Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to exclude the parking of commuter, tourist and shopping trip coaches within one mile of the Palace of Westminster. [34866]

Mr. Norris: No.

Mr. Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what controls are currently exercised over the parking of commuter, tourist and shopping trip coaches in central London. [34861]

Mr. Norris: Commuter, tourist and shopping trip coaches in central London are subject to the on-street parking controls that apply within special parking areas and on priority (red) routes.

Northern Cruiser (Sailing)

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what action he proposes to take against the captain of the Northern Cruiser for sailing on 17 May. [34862]

Mr. Norris: This is an operational matter for the Marine Safety Agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from R. M. Bradley to Mr. Tony Banks, dated 19 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Transport has asked me to reply to your question about the NORTHERN CRUISER.

The NORTHERN CRUISER was inspected by surveyors from the Marine Safety Agency (MSA) on 10 January 1995 and detained due to a defective rescue boat. She was released on the same day after the deficiency had been rectified.

I am not aware of a reason for the MSA to take action against the captain of the NORTHERN CRUISER for sailing on 17 May 1995.

Common Shipping Policy

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals he has received from the European Commission for the development of a common shipping policy; and what response he has made. [34931]

Mr. Norris: Over the last decade, the UK has supported Community legislation which seeks to ensure open access and fair competition on shipping routes both inside the Community and between member states and third countries. The Commission is currently preparing a strategy document on the future development of Community shipping policy which it intends to present to member states at the end of this year.

Civil Servants

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35454]

Mr. Norris: I have placed in the Library of the House a list of the grades employed by my Department, including executive agencies, as at 1 April 1995, broken down by gender and full/part-time working.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the number and percentages of these staff that are women, in his Department and for each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [35689]

Mr. Norris: The information is not available in the form requested but details by grade and gender for the Department as a whole, including any executive agencies can be found in table 5 of civil service statistics for each year from 1985 and to 1994—copies available in the Library. Details for 1995 will be published later this year.

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35666]

Mr. Norris: The Department of Transport has been actively pursuing the civil service programme for action to achieve equality of opportunity for women. The Department has implemented an extensive programme of equal opportunities training and has encouraged part-time working and flexible working patterns. The proportion of women in management positions has increased significantly and women now make up 14 per cent. of the Department's three top grades.

British Airways (Consolidated Fares)

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to encourage British Airways to increase the number of consolidators appointed on the Indian sub-continent route. [35708]

Mr. Norris: This is a commercial matter for British Airways.

Road Humps

Mr. Robert Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what are his recommendations for the contours and size of road humps built to calm traffic and their positioning. [36178]

Mr. Norris: The rules for the design and location of road humps built to calm traffic are set out in the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1990.

Under the Highways Act 1980, as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991, the Secretary of State may authorise the use of road humps which do not conform to the requirements of the regulations, and non-standard humps such as speed cushions have been authorised in this way. The Department has also issued traffic advisory leaflets on speed control humps—that is, standard road humps—(Leaflet 2/90); Fire and Ambulance Services Traffic Calming: a Code of Practice (3/94); Speed Cushions (9/94); and "Thumps" Thermoplastic Road Humps (7/94), all of which contain advice on various types of road hump. In addition, Department of Transport circular roads 3/90 contains general advice to local authorities. I am placing copies of these documents in the Library.

Mr. Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road humps for calming traffic have been built by Harrogate borough council; and what was the average cost of each. [36179]

Mr. Norris: This information is not held by the Department.

Rail Delays (King's Cross)

Mr. Hardy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reports he has received about the nature and cause of delays in travelling by rail to King's Cross on 17 July; and if he will ensure that those responsible *(a)* announce some form of compensation to those affected and *(b)* offer relevant information during such journeys. [36237]

Mr. Watts: This is an operational matter for British Rail and its train operating units and Railtrack. British Rail has advised that a West Anglian Great Northern train was discovered at Holloway at around 12.30 on Monday 17 July with a damaged pantograph, which had damaged overhead power lines in the area. Services were severely disrupted until the mid-evening, with some trains being delayed for three to four hours.

Trains to London were stopped at Finsbury park and passengers were advised to take the underground to make connections.

Bull Bars

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information he has been given of changes in policy, of advertising, presenting and sale of bull bars and bull bar substitutes since he urged the industry to reduce its advertising of metal bull bars. [35873]

Mr. Norris: My predecessor wrote in April 1993 to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders urging it not to fit bull bars as standard and to avoid marketing of them.

Although no official reply was received, we understand that some motor manufacturers are no longer, as a matter of general practice, advertising the availability of bull bars on their vehicles. There has also been a move towards the production of bull bars which would be significantly less aggressive if the vehicle were involved in an accident.

Road Traffic Accidents

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents there have been in each year since 1989 *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in Scotland (i) involving fatalities, (ii) involving injuries and (iii) in total. [35835]

Mr. Norris: The table shows for England and Wales, and for Scotland, the number of accidents involving fatalities, non-fatal injuries and the total number for each year 1989 to 1994.

	Accidents in England and Wales			*Accidents in Scotland*		
	Fatal	*Non-fatal*	*Total*	*Fatal*	*Non-fatal*	*Total*
1989	4,411	235,740	240,151	496	20,112	20,608
1990	4,258	234,016	238,274	490	19,677	20,167
1991	3,718	213,071	216,789	440	18,569	19,009
1992	3,432	211,576	215,008	423	17,594	18,017
1993	3,111	209,068	212,179	359	16,327	16,686
1994	3,007	214,317	217,324	319	16,458	16,777

Isle of Skye Car Ferry

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice which he gave to the acting chairman of the Scottish Rail Users Consultative Committee in respect of the procedures to be followed over the withdrawal of the existing Isle of Skye car ferry: and if he will make a statement. [35851]

Mr. Watts: Yes. My letter of 21 April to the acting chairman of the Rail Users Consultative Committee for Scotland set out the Department's view of the duties and powers of the committee with regard to ferry services operated by Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd. A copy is being placed in the Library.

Sudden Noise (Effect on Drivers)

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research has been commissioned by his Department or by the Highways Agency into the effects of sudden noise on traffic; and if he will make a statement. [35823]

Mr. Watts: In response to concerns expressed by the Ministry of Defence, there is a research programme in progress at the Transport Research Laboratory on the effects on drivers of sudden noise from artillery ranges. When this has been completed I will write to my hon. Friend.

Unsafe Vehicles

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 13 July, *Official Report*, column *707*, if he will break down the figures on unsafe vehicles to show *(a)* the number in a dangerous or defective case and *(b)* the number of offences of using a vehicle in a dangerous condition and other related offences. [35855]

Mr. Norris: The available information does not permit us to break down the data to show separately offences relating to a vehicle or vehicle part found to be in a dangerous or defective condition and offences of using such a vehicle together with other related offences.

My previous answer made it clear that the statistics are recorded in terms of offences and not vehicle numbers.

West Coast Main Line

Mr. Matthew Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what further progress has been made on the west coast main line reinvestment project under the private finance initiative; and whether he will make a statement about the contract to undertake the upgrading work. [36346]

Mr. Watts: The development of the signalling system will be within the framework of the private finance initiative. Railtrack informs me that the detailed tender documentation for the signalling system was issued on 14 July. It aims to let the contract by the end of the year.

Vehicle Licensing

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what were the number of vehicles licensed for use in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the United Kingdom in each year since 1979. [35657]

Mr. Norris: The numbers of vehicles licensed for use in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the United Kingdom since 1979 are as follows:

	Scotland	*Thousands United Kingdom*
1979	1,353	18,625
1980	1,398	19,210
1981	1,397	19,347
1982	1,416	19,762
1983	1,464	20,209
1984	1,524	20,988
1985	1,528	21,062
1986	1,560	21,607
1987	1,599	22,235
1988	1,678	23,351
1989	1,736	24,196
1990	1,811	24,673
1991	1,845	24,511
1992	1,900	24,851
1993	1,929	25,089
1994	1,962	25,534

British Rail Engineering Ltd., Swindon

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Swindon BREL works were closed; and how many people were employed at the works *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three years before its closure. [34454]

Mr. Watts: The BREL works at Swindon closed in 1986. The BREL employee information was not contained in the BR central database and therefore is not readily available from BR and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Property (Discretionary Purchase)

Mr. Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he is now able to introduce new guidelines for the discretionary purchase of property seriously affected by a proposed trunk road, or motorway widening scheme. [35943]

Mr. Norris: My right hon. Friend has today issued new guidelines for considering applications for discretionary purchase of property seriously affected by proposed trunk road or motorway widening schemes.

The new guidelines do not affect owner-occupiers' existing statutory rights under part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 and apply only to those who have a pressing need to sell their property in advance of these provisions coming into play. Owner-occupiers who do not qualify under the guidelines may, nevertheless, be eligible for noise insulation. The new guidelines indicate the general manner in which cases will be considered by the Highways Agency acting on the Secretary of State's behalf, but each application for discretionary purchase will be considered on its merits.

I recommend detailed study of the guidelines for a full understanding of the way the new scheme will work. Briefly, the Highways Agency will consider eligible applications in two stages:

first to see if, in the agency's opinion, enjoyment of the property will be seriously affected and, if the agency thinks it will be—

second to decide whether to offer to buy, taking account of the information in the application.

The agency must be of the opinion that the enjoyment of the property will be seriously affected by either the construction or the use of the road. Serious effect may be caused by a number of factors, including noise and medical conditions which are likely to be severely aggravated by physical effects from either the construction of the road or its use. To these, the new guidelines add diminution in the value of the property as a result of the road proposal. Other factors, or combination of factors, may cause serious effect and the agency will take these into account when considering the application.

The agency's decision on whether or not to offer to buy the property will depend on whether the applicant:

had foreknowledge of the proposed road scheme;

has made reasonable efforts to sell the property; and

has a pressing need to move and therefore to sell the property—which normally must not be connected with the scheme.

I should emphasise that the agency will normally also need to be of the opinion that the enjoyment of the property will be seriously affected by both diminution in value and noise arising during the construction period or during the first year following the opening of the road to traffic.

The Highways Agency will aim to arrive at a decision on a properly completed application within three months of its receipt.

I have arranged for a copy of the guidelines to be placed in the Library.

Comparable guidelines will be used for considering applications for discretionary purchase of property seriously affected by the proposed channel tunnel rail link. I have arranged for a copy of these guidelines to be placed in the Library also.

Both sets of guidelines come into immediate effect.

Departmental Efficiency Plan

Mr. Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for reporting efficiency achievements and reviews planned.

Sir George Young: Efficiency achievements and reviews planned are included in the Department of Transport efficiency plan 1995 summary report, which is published today. Copies of this document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Euro-routes (Railways)

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations he has received in relation to the designation of the Holyhead-Felixstowe railway route as a preferred Euro-route for *(a)* freight and *(b)* passenger purposes; what consultations he has had with the European Union Transport Commissioner concerning the practical implications of such a designation; and if he will make a statement; [35236]

(2) if he will make a statement on the designation of international Euro-routes as they effect *(a)* the United Kingdom railway system in general and *(b)* the Holyhead-Felixstowe railway route. [35235]

Mr. Watts *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* We have received a number of representations. The Holyhead-Felixstowe rail route has always featured on the draft trans-European rail network map. Its inclusion was supported by the UK Government. The Transport Council approved the draft map at its last meeting. At the Council, the UK also supported the addition of this route to the draft combined transport network map.

It is for Railtrack to decide whether to apply for funding for any such projects. The UK Government will consider carefully all applications before submitting its bid for network funding.

Investment projects on routes included in the TEN maps are eligible in principle for financial support from the TEN's budget.

A1 (Ferrybridge)

Mr. William O'Brien : To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what is the length of delay in contractors carrying out work on the A1 at Ferrybridge, in meeting agreed timetables on slip road closures; and if he will make a statement; [36139]

(2) what is the agreed contract time for the road works on the A1 from Ferrybridge to Selby Fork; [36132]

(3) what is the agreed start and finish date for the A1 road works involving and affecting Ferrybridge; [36130]

(4) if he will make a statement on the arrangements for traffic management and alternative routes available for vehicles using the A1 during the major road works north of Ferrybridge; [36129]

(5) what is the average number of vehicles passing the road works on the A1 in Ferrybridge per hour per day. [36133]

(6) how many hours have been worked on the A1 road improvements at Ferrybridge *(a)* at the weekends and *(b)* during the night. [36131]

Mr. Watts: These are operational matters for the Highways Agency. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lawrie Haynes to Mr. William O'Brien, dated 19 July 1995:

As you know, the Minister for Railways and Roads, Mr. John Watts, has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Questions numbered 337, 339, 343, 352, 355 and 358 on the Order Paper circulated on 17 July. All six questions are about the current roadworks on the A1 at Ferrybridge.

You asked (question 343) about the agreed start and finish date for the works and (question 339) the agreed contract time. The start date was 20 June, the agreed finish date is 9 August and the contract duration is 51 days. You also asked (question 355) the average number of vehicles passing these roadworks. It is about 3,400 vehicles per hour during the day (ie 7am to 7pm) but the number varies outside that period.

In question 337 you asked about the length of delay in contractors carrying out the work in meeting agreed timetables on slip-road closures. The length of time that slip roads were originally planned to be closed for these works was 144 slip road days at Botherton/Ferrybridge and 50 slip road days at Fairburn. Due to

having to carry out additional work at the River Aire Bridge the slip road closures at Botherton/Ferrybridge will now total 167 slip road days, but at Fairburn will become 80 slip road days. The effect on the overall contract period has been minimised by re-phasing some of the roadworks to be carried out concurrently with the additional bridgeworks.

You also asked (question 358) how many hours have been worked at (a) weekends and (b) during the night, on this scheme. The contractor has worked all weekends and a number of nights. On 15 days, the contractor intends to work the full 24 hours and on 32 days he will work for 16 hours. On some phases of the work night operations are not possible due to noise restrictions imposed by the local environment health officer to avoid causing nuisance to adjacent residential properties.

In question 352 you asked about the arrangements for traffic management and alternative routes available for vehicles using the A1 during the roadworks. The A1 north of Ferrybridge is a two lane dual carriageway without hard shoulders. In order to carry out the works to the River Aire Bridge and undertake resurfacing safely it has been necessary to close one carriageway at a time and keep open one lane in each direction on the other carriageway. There are no easy alternative routes for drivers to use to avoid this section of A1. In order to minimise delays and give drivers the opportunity to plan their journeys to avoid this section of A1, altogether or during peak periods, widespread publicity has been given to this scheme in advance of work starting and will continue until it has finished. Signs were erected at the site of the works about three weeks before lane restrictions were imposed and advertisements were placed in local newspapers during the week before work started. Leaflets have been printed and distributed throughout the north of England. Two of these give general information on planned roadworks, on motorways and on the A1. An additional leaflet gives specific details of this scheme. Local and national radio stations give frequent up to date reports about the traffic conditions in the vicinity of works.

I should perhaps add that we fully understand the inconvenience caused to road users by the need to carry out essential maintenance works such as this to keep the A1 in a safe and serviceable condition. Whilst we do as much as possible to publicise likely delays, plan traffic management in advance, and minimise the duration of the contract, we cannot avoid the need to restrict the use of the existing road in the interests of the safety of both the workforce and the travelling public.

A36T (South Newton)

Mr. Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what traffic calming measures will be installed on the A36(T) at South Newton; when this will occur, and if he will make a statement. [35822]

Mr. Watts: When I visited South Newton on 25 November, at my hon. Friend's invitation, I announced that we planned to install experimental electronic speed limit warning signs on the A36 at either end of the South Newton village. Traffic counting loops for monitoring traffic speeds have recently been installed in the carriageway. The Highways Agency is currently monitoring and recording vehicle speeds through the village so that the effectiveness of the signs in reducing speed can be properly assessed. The project is on line for completion in the autumn.

Roads (Public Inquiries)

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy that objectors to public inquiries into road building projects should not have to supply to the Highways Agency copies of reference documents which have been referred to which can be obtained through the public library system. [36156]

Mr. Watts: Under the Highways (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 1995, the Secretary of State is required to make available for inspection free of charge at a public inquiry every document which he intends to refer to or put in evidence.

It is open to the Secretary of State to require an objector, or any other person who wishes to appear at the inquiry, to provide a copy of every document, or the relevant part of any document, to which such person intends to refer.

Ebbsfleet Passenger Station

Mr. Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies relating to the proposed international passenger station at Ebbsfleet were carried out between the announcement of the intermediate stations in August 1994 and the publication of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill in November 1994. [35824]

Mr. Watts: My right hon. Friend the Member for Norfolk, South (Mr. MacGregor), the former Secretary of State, announced in January 1994 that Ebbsfleet was the preferred parkway station option, subject to a satisfactory offer of private finance. To meet the Bill timetable Union Railways started preliminary work for the environmental statement in May 1994. Work was stepped up in June when Ministers decided that the offer made by Blue Circle provided an acceptable basis for proceeding, subject to the negotiation of detailed heads of terms. By the time these negotiations were satisfactorily concluded and a decision announced at the end of August 1994, consultants had developed access road options and a comparative environmental appraisal of the results was nearly complete. Other work for the Ebbsfleet annexe to the ES started in late July. Work on this and on access arrangements, including validation of the appraisal of access options by external environmental specialists, continued after August. Despite the relative simplicity of the existing road network and the fact that Union Railways was able to draw on work already undertaken on behalf of Blue Circle, the highways arrangements were only finalised in October just in time for inclusion in the Bill.

Road Schemes (Detective Agencies)

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if the contracts for employment of private detective agencies by his Department in relation to road schemes were put to tender. [35060]

Mr. Watts: The agency does not generally employ detective agencies directly. They are employed by Treasury Solicitors on our behalf. The means of securing their employment are therefore a matter for the Treasury Solicitor. On one occasion that a detective agency was employed directly, for the M3 Twyford Down scheme, single tender action was used.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what has been the total cost to date of the employment by his Department of Bray's Detective Agency, breaking down the figures by the road schemes covered. [35057]

Mr. Watts: This information is being collected and I will write to the hon. Member again as soon as it is available.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what allocation of funds has been made for the employment of Bray's Detective Agency in relation to the construction of the Newbury bypass. [35058]

Mr. Watts: No allocation of funds has been made for the employment of Bray's Detective Agency in relation to the construction of the Newbury bypass.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library the terms of reference under which Bray's Detective Agency operates in the employment of his Department. [35062]

Mr. Watts: Bray's Detective Agency is employed by the Treasury Solicitor, not the Highways Agency, so the terms of reference for its employment are a matter for the Treasury Solicitor.

Great Minster House

Mr. Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what has been the cost of fitting out Great Minster house for use by his Department. [35779]

Mr. Norris: The estimated fitting out cost is £13,846,305 million, including VAT.

Mr. Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what will be the rental charges and associated costs on his Department's new premises, Great Minster house, Horseferry road. [35781]

Mr. Norris: In a full year the Department will pay £4,228,000 in rent, including VAT, and an estimated £3,367,000 for the contribution in lieu of rates, management, maintenance and service charges.

Mr. Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what will be the total costs of the transfer of his Department to Great Minster house, Horseferry road. [35780]

Mr. Norris: The total estimated cost of the transfer is £19,364,000 including VAT. This includes the fit-out cost, professional fees, IT systems, telecommunications, furniture and other client items.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Attorney-General if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available. [33443]

The Attorney-General: The information indicates, for each of the Departments for which I am responsible, *(a)* those consultancy firms with which the greatest number of consultancy contracts were concluded[1] and *(b)* those consultancy firms with the contracts of greatest total monetary value[2], in each case for the five years 1990–91 to 1994–95.

	Number of contracts	*Monetary value £ thousand*
Serious Fraud Office		
(a) 1. (ACT) Network SI Group Ltd.	3	
2. Amtec Consulting Ltd.	2	
Digitus Ltd.	2	
Hedra Ltd.	2	
Hoskyns Group plc[3]	2	
Insight Consulting	2	
Morgan Lovell Ltd.	2	
SHL Systemhouse Inc.	2	
(b) 1. Digitus Ltd.		154
2. Hoskyns Group plc		121.2
3. Hedra Ltd.		73.4
4. Ernst and Young		58.8
5. Central Office of Information		56.3
Crown Prosecution Service		
(a) 1. Shapes Graphic Design	8	
2. PE International	6	
3. Touche-Ross	6	
4. Infact Ltd.	4	
Sequelogic Ltd.	4	
(b)[4]		
Treasury Solicitor's Department		
(a) 1. BDO Consulting	6	
2. Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency	5	
3. J. Blair	3	
4. Pannell Kerr Forster Associates	2	
Recruitment Advisory Service	2	
(b) 1. BDO Consulting		601.3
2. Pannell Kerr Forster Associates		78.8
3. Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency		61.3
4. J. Blair		53.1
5. Recruitment Advisory Service		22.3
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers		
Nil		

[1] Figures in (a) give the number of contracts entered into.
[2] Figures in (b) give the total monetary value of the contracts concerned.
[3] Includes ABT International.
[4] This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Attorney-General how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33500]

The Attorney-General: The information is set out in the table.

£ thousand

Department	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	477(7)	471(12)	665(24)	693(52)	[1]699(52)
Serious Fraud Office	171(4)	88(2)	112(9)	149(6)	[1]242(10)
Treasury Solicitor's Department	Not known	54(6)	335(8)	428(14)	125(8)

[1] Unaudited.

Note:
Figures in brackets represent the number of contracts that year.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Attorney-General if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980. [33463]

The Attorney-General: Nil.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Attorney-General how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and *(i)* Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33920]

The Attorney-General: The information with respect to the firms used by the Departments and agency for which I am responsible is as follows:

	1993–94	*1994–95*
Serious Fraud Office		
Cooper and Lybrand	1,421 (0)	361 (1)
Peat Marwick	612 (0)	282 (1)
Ernst and Young	186 (1)	217 (1)
Price Waterhouse	88 (2)	48 (1)
Grant Thornton	59 (0)	261 (0)
Robson Rhodes	8 (0)	106 (2)
Treasury Solicitor's Department		
Arthur Anderson	356 (3)	8 (2)
Pannell Kerr Forster	—	79 (2)
Crown Prosecution Service		
Coopers and Lybrand	—	12 (1)
Ernst and Young	—	37 (2)
Price Waterhouse	—	17 (1)
Government Property Lawyers		
Coopers and Lybrand	1 (1)	—
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers		
Nil		

Notes:

1. Figures before the brackets represent expenditure in £000, to the nearest £1,000, on contracts both new and continuing during the financial year in question.
2. Figures in brackets represent the number of new contracts entered into during the financial year in question.

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr. Donald Anderson: To ask the Attorney-General how many wasted costs orders have been made against the Crown Prosecution Service over the past four periods of six months or such other periods as are convenient for statistical purposes. [34849]

The Attorney-General: I have taken the hon. Member's question to refer to orders made under section 19(1) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 and regulation 3 of the Costs in Criminal Cases (General) Regulations 1986. The numbers of such orders recorded against the Crown Prosecution Service are set out in the table.

	Costs against CPS	
	Crown court	*Magistrates courts*
April to June 1993	49	148
July to September 1993	86	200
October to December 1993	62	102
January to March 1994	62	89
Total for year 1993–94	259	539
April to June 1994	57	91
July to September 1994	40	80
October to December 1994	68	68
January to March 1995	54	102
Total for year 1994–95	219	341

1. Information is not available to establish the enactment under which the orders were made and may include awards of costs made otherwise than in accordance with the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.
2. The information is limited to Crown court and magistrates court cases. It does not include costs awards made in the higher courts.
3. The figures relate to all cases dealt with by the CPS areas but do not include any orders made in the specialist casework handled by CPS headquarters.

Mr. Keen: To ask the Attorney-General what action the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to monitor its treatment of defendants from different ethnic backgrounds to ensure that it is fair; and what is the Crown Prosecution Service's timetable for *(a)* collecting, *(b)* analysing and *(b)* publishing data. [34750]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service is participating fully in the interdepartmental group co-ordinating ethnic monitoring in the criminal justice system and is exploring with the Commission for Racial Equality ways in which ethnic monitoring by the Crown Prosecution Service might be best introduced.

Mr. Nick Leeson

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Attorney-General, pursuant to his answer on 22 May, *Official Report*, column *592*, when he expects the Serious Fraud Office to complete its investigation into Mr. Nick Leeson. [34433]

The Attorney-General: Inquiries outstanding include the obtaining of information from Singapore. It is not possible at this stage to say when inquiries will be completed.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Attorney-General on what occasions representatives of *(a)* the Serious Fraud Office and *(b)* other investigative authorities have travelled to Germany to seek to interview Mr. Nick Leeson. [34418]

The Attorney-General: It is my practice not to give operational details about on-going criminal investigations being conducted by the Serious Fraud Office.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Attorney-General if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34707]

The Attorney-General: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the United Kingdom economy.

The Government continue to help smaller businesses by keeping inflation and interest rates low and by reducing legislative, administrative and taxation burdens. They also provide direct assistance where appropriate.

The White Paper announced in May 1995 outlines a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

Of the Departments for which I am responsible, the Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers and the Treasury Solicitor's Department provide services which are largely internal to Government. The functions of the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office relate purely to the criminal justice system.

As regards purchasing, the Law Officers' Departments have regard to the desirability of promoting the interests of small businesses. However, no specific policies or performance indicators exist in those Department in this connection.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Attorney General if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government World Wide Web server known as "ww.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34672]

The Attorney-General: The Departments for which I am responsible do not at present make direct use of the World Wide Web and have no plans to do so in the immediate future. However, the possibility of participating is kept under consideration.

The Crown Prosecution Service makes its press releases available to the public via the Internet using the Central Office of Information's experimental service of the World Wide Web. This service commenced in April 1995.

Civil Servants

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Attorney-General if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department *(a)* the number of full-time employees and *(b)* how many of these are (i) male and (ii) female. [35476]

The Attorney-General: The information with respect to the Departments for which I am responsible, as at 1 July 1995, is as follows:

Grade	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Crown Prosecution Service			
1	0	1	1
3	5	0	5
4	14	0	14
5	42	2	44
6	163	23	186
7	37	8	45
Principal Crown Prosecutor	356	158	514
Senior Crown Prosecutor	613	472	1,085
Crown Prosecutor	97	133	230
Legal Trainee	28	55	83
Senior Executive Officer	71	28	99
Higher Executive Officer	128	142	270
Executive Officer	382	788	1,170
Administrative Officer	331	878	1,209
Administrative Assistant	126	330	456
Personal Secretary	0	79	79
Typing Manager	0	16	16
Typist	2	308	310
Support Manager 3	0	1	1
Support Grade Band 1	37	17	54
Support Grade Band 2	40	34	74
Treasury Solicitor's Department			
1	1	0	1
2	2	0	2
3	6	0	6
4	2	0	2
5	28	7	35
6	35	10	45
7	39	37	76
Senior Legal Assistant	2	1	3
Legal Officer	2	3	5
Legal Trainee	0	3	3
Senior Executive Officer	10	4	14
Higher Executive Officer	10	13	23
Executive Officer	29	23	52
Divorce Enquiry Officer	3	0	3
Administrative Officer	17	20	37
Administrative Assistant	0	3	3
Librarian	0	1	1
Assistant Librarian	0	1	1
Chief Typing Manager	0	1	1
Senior Personal Secretary	0	8	8
Personal Secretary	0	15	15
Typing Manager	0	1	1
Typist	0	3	3
Support Manager 3	0	1	1
Support Grade Band 1	0	4	4
Support Grade Band 2	13	3	16
Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers			
2	0	1	1
4	1	0	1
5	5	0	5
6	4	0	4
Higher Executive Officer	1	0	1
Executive Officer	2	0	2
Adminstrative Officer	3	1	4
Senior Personal Secretary	0	4	4
Support Grade Band 1	0	1	1
Support Grade Band 2	3	0	3
Government Property Lawyers			
3	1	0	1
5	5	0	5
6	13	0	13
7	18	2	20
Senior Executive Officer	4	1	5
Higher Executive Officer	10	4	14
Executive Officer	4	14	18
Administrative Officer	8	14	22
Senior Personal Secretary	0	1	1
Personal Secretary	0	6	6
Typing Manager	0	1	1
Typist	0	6	6
Support Grade Band 2	4	3	7
Serious Fraud Office			
2	1	0	1
3	1	0	1
4	1	0	1

Grade	Male	Female	Total
5	8	1	9
6	10	4	14
7	12	2	14
Senior Executive Officer	11	1	12
Senior Information Officer	1	0	1
Higher Executive Officer	9	4	13
Information Officer	0	1	1
Executive Officer	14	13	27
Administrative Officer	5	13	18
Senior Personal Secretary	0	1	1
Personal Secretary	0	6	6
Typing Manager	0	1	1
Typist	0	9	9
Support Grade Band 1	1	2	3
Support Grade Band 2	2	0	2

Notes:
Figures relate only to full-time staff. Casual staff are not included.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Assisted Places

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what was the average cost per pupil of an assisted place for each year since 1989. [35480]

Mrs. Gillan: The average cost to public funds of an assisted place in the Department's scheme in England for each academic year since 1989–90 is given in the table:

Academic year	Average cost of an assisted place[1] £
1989–90	2,364
1990–91	2,691
1991–92	3,101
1992–93	3,405
1993–94	3,544
1994–95	[2]3,688

[1] Includes tuition fees and some incidental expenses such as uniform and travel grants.
[2] Estimate.

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many people are employed in the management of the assisted places scheme. [35535]

Mrs. Gillan: The full-time equivalents of about 7.5 staff in the Department are directly engaged in the management of the assisted places scheme.

Nursery Education

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what are the different levels of nursery vouchers that the Government propose to introduce and on what basis the differential is to be calculated. [35538]

Mr. Robin Squire: The expectation is that a voucher worth around £1,100 will be exchanged for either a part-time place in a nursery class, nursery school or private nursery establishment, or a full-time place in a reception class where that is on offer, or up to a full-time place in a playgroup. The detailed funding regime will be considered further.

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what estimate she has made of the cost of administration of her voucher scheme for all four-year-olds *(a)* from April 1996–97 and *(b)* 1997–98. [35561]

Mr. Robin Squire *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The cost of issuing and redeeming vouchers is expected to be less than 1.5 per cent. of the value of the vouchers themselves.

Mr. David Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her oral statement of 6 July, *Official Report*, columns 517–519, how much funding a voucher would provide to pay for a part-time place in a playgroup.

Mr. Robin Squire: The detailed funding regime for playgroups is being considered.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how the proposals to give parents of four-year-olds vouchers for nursery education will take into account the varying costs of local authority provision.

Mr. Robin Squire: The proposed funding method will recoup from local authorities a sum equivalent to the voucher value multiplied by the number of four-year-olds in maintained provision in each authority. This is only a part of total spending on under-fives, and allows local education authorities to continue to fund places as they judge appropriate.

The need for regional variation in the value of the voucher will be tested in phase 1 of the voucher scheme.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment in which areas her voucher scheme will be tested in February 1996; and what consultations or discussions she has had with the teaching unions on these proposals/pilot schemes.

Mr. Squire: My right hon. Friend has written to all leaders of county councils, metropolitan borough councils and new unitary authorities inviting them to volunteer their areas to participate in the first phase of the voucher scheme.

My right hon. Friend discussed the voucher scheme with each of the teaching unions when the new policy was announced.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what account proposals to give parents of four-year-olds vouchers for nursery education will take of local authorities whose nursery provision is directed at three-year-olds and where children move to a receiving class at four years.

Mr. Squire: Pre-school education vouchers for four-year-olds will be redeemable at a wide range of establishments, including reception classes. The vouchers will allow parents to transfer their children from one establishment to another during the year, if they wish to do so.

The proposed funding method for the voucher scheme will allow local education authorities to continue to spend on three year-olds as they judge appropriate.

Mr. Spearing: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, pursuant to her press statement of 6 July, 143/95, concerning pre-school proposals, if she will name the private sector company which will administer the scheme, or the manner in which she expects to advertise the terms for tendering for the relevant contract; and if she will place a copy of the relevant document in the Library. [35560]

Mr. Robin Squire *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* My right hon. Friend announced on 6 July her decision to select, by competitive tender, a private sector company to issue and redeem the pre-school voucher. Advertisements inviting expressions of interest have been published. A copy of the detailed specifications will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what calculations her Department has undertaken in respect of the real cost of nursery education for four-year-olds in *(a)* the state sector and *(b)* the private sector.

Mr. Robin Squire: With respect to costs in the state sector, I refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend gave to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett) on 15 May at columns *11-12*.

The official task force on under-fives has consulted a wide range of representatives of the private and voluntary sectors about the cost of providing places for four-year-olds in their sectors.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what estimates her Department has made of the operating costs of administering the scheme to give vouchers to parents of four-year-olds; and what level of profits the private company set up to administer the scheme is expected to make. [35281]

Mr. Squire: The cost of issuing and redeeming vouchers will be determined by a competitive tender. It is expected to be less than 1.5 per cent. of the value of the vouchers themselves.

Class Sizes

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what is the average class size in *(a)* city technology colleges, *(b)* grant-maintained secondary schools, *(c)* local education authority grammar schools, *(d)* local education authority secondary modern schools and *(e)* local education authority comprehensive secondary schools.

Mr. Robin Squire: Information for January 1994 for the average size of one teacher classes in the various categories of secondary school is as follows:

School type	*Average class size*
LEA maintained schools:	
Grammar	19.9
Modern	21.5
Comprehensive	21.4
Grant Maintained Secondary Schools	20.9
City Technology Colleges	19.1

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what is the average class size in *(a)* grant maintained and *(b)* local education authority primary schools.

Mr. Robin Squire: In January 1994 the average size of one teacher classes in both grant maintained and local education authority maintained primary schools was 26.9.

Mr. Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what is the average class size in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority in England.

Mr. Squire: The average size of one teacher classes in maintained—including GM—primary and secondary for each LEA in England for January 1994 is given in the table.

LEA	*Primary*	*Secondary*
City	27.0	0.0
Camden	27.1	20.4
Greenwich	26.1	21.9
Hackney	25.7	21.9
Hammersmith	25.2	21.0
Islington	25.9	23.1
Kensington and Chelsea	24.9	19.1
Lambeth	24.2	21.6
Lewisham	26.0	22.6
Southwark	26.9	24.3
Tower Hamlets	26.4	22.4
Wandsworth	25.0	21.2
Westminster	24.0	20.8
Barking	26.1	21.8
Barnet	26.4	19.8
Bexley	27.5	22.0
Brent	27.0	20.9
Bromley	28.1	21.1
Croydon	27.6	21.9
Ealing	26.6	22.2
Enfield	27.8	21.2
Haringey	26.7	21.2
Harrow	26.8	23.4
Havering	27.5	22.2
Hillingdon	27.1	21.0
Hounslow	26.2	21.3
Kingston upon Thames	28.9	20.5
Merton	27.2	22.0
Newham	27.5	24.5
Redbridge	29.3	20.9
Richmond upon Thames	25.7	23.3
Sutton	28.3	21.4
Waltham Forest	26.8	22.5
Birmingham	28.2	22.1
Coventry	27.1	22.9
Dudley	27.0	22.7
Sandwell	27.9	21.2
Solihull	27.3	21.8
Walsall	25.7	20.6
Wolverhampton	25.9	20.5
Knowsley	27.7	22.1
Liverpool	26.9	20.4
St. Helens	26.8	19.7
Sefton	27.2	20.9
Wirral	25.9	20.9
Bolton	28.1	21.1
Bury	27.5	22.7
Manchester	26.5	22.4
Oldham	28.6	22.5
Rochdale	29.5	22.8
Salford	27.1	22.3
Stockport	27.7	21.6
Tameside	29.6	23.7
Trafford	29.0	21.6

LEA	Primary	Secondary
Wigan	27.9	21.4
Barnsley	27.4	22.9
Doncaster	27.5	21.1
Rotherham	25.1	20.5
Sheffield	26.3	22.4
Bradford	27.3	22.5
Calderdale	27.9	20.2
Kirklees	27.2	21.4
Leeds	27.9	20.5
Wakefield	27.5	21.8
Gateshead	25.8	20.7
Newcastle upon Tyne	27.3	21.5
North Tyneside	26.5	21.9
South Tyneside	26.3	22.5
Sunderland	25.6	20.9
Isle of Scilly	18.7	24.0
Avon	27.7	21.2
Bedfordshire	26.3	22.0
Berkshire	27.1	20.1
Buckinghamshire	27.2	21.1
Cambridgeshire	27.4	22.3
Cheshire	27.4	21.1
Cleveland	26.8	22.1
Cornwall	26.8	22.2
Cumbria	25.7	20.6
Derbyshire	27.3	21.4
Devon	26.4	21.1
Dorset	27.5	21.9
Durham	27.5	21.6
East Sussex	27.4	21.0
Essex	26.9	21.9
Gloucestershire	26.4	21.5
Hampshire	27.4	22.2
Hereford and Worcester	25.1	21.7
Hertfordshire	26.4	20.1
Humberside	27.5	22.6
Isle of Wight	26.0	22.2
Kent	27.6	20.9
Lancashire	27.7	21.4
Leicestershire	25.8	21.5
Lincolnshire	26.5	19.9
Norfolk	25.1	20.2
North Yorkshire	25.7	20.8
Northamptonshire	26.4	20.6
Northumberland	27.0	22.0
Nottinghamshire	27.0	20.5
Oxfordshire	25.6	21.0
Shropshire	26.4	21.1
Somerset	26.9	22.1
Staffordshire	27.7	22.1
Suffolk	24.8	20.7
Surrey	25.5	21.6
Warwickshire	26.5	20.3
West Sussex	26.2	21.6
Wiltshire	26.6	21.3
England	26.9	21.4

Exclusion from School

Mr. David Nicholson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will review her Department's policy on exclusion from school; and if she will make a statement following the recent comments by the Commissioner of Police at the Metropolis on the contribution to certain types of crime by young black males who may have been excluded from school. [35446]

Mr. Robin Squire: Government policy is to ensure that permanent exclusion is used as a last resort and that pupils out of school by reason of exclusion do not drop through the education net. To that end the Education Act 1993 made a number of changes to the law on exclusions and placed a new duty on local education authorities to provide education otherwise than at school where necessary to meet a pupil's needs. These provisions came into effect on 1 September 1994 and we are keeping their implementation under review.

Student Accommodation

Mr. David Nicholson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what information she has of the availability to students studying away from home, of satisfactory low cost housing, including that for which the student does not have to pay during the summer vacation; what trends in this matter have taken place since 1990; and what measures have been taken by her Department in conjunction with universities and similar institutions and local authorities. [35447]

Mr. Forth: We do not collect any information about the availability of student residential accommodation. This is a matter for universities and colleges which, as independent, autonomous bodies, are responsible for making their own decisions about residential accommodation requirements for their students, in the light of local circumstances. However, the Government introduced a package of measures in the Housing Act 1988 designed to encourage private landlords to bring more and better quality accommodation on to the market. In addition, the "Rent a Room" scheme is a tax incentive designed to encourage people to take in lodgers. These measures are of benefit to students among others.

Higher Education Funding

Mr. Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, which institutions are in receipt of non-formula funding. [32033]

Mr. Forth *[holding answer 3 July 1995]:* All higher education institutions with the exception of Chichester institute of higher education, Norwich school of art and Trinity college of music will receive non-formula funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England in 1994–95. The following further education institutions will also receive HEFCE non-formula funding in 1994–95:

Berkshire College of Art and Design
Bracknell College
Brooklands Technical College
Chichester College
Crawley College of Technology
Croydon College
Guildford College of Further and Higher Education
Hammersmith and West London College
Harlow College
Havering College of Further and Higher Education
North East Surrey College of Art and Technology
Newham Community College
College of North West London
Thurrock College
West Thames College
Westminster College

The Further Education Funding Council funds the following 11 designated institutions by non-formula methods:

Adult Bursary Scheme for Long-term Residential Colleges
The City Literary Institute
Fircroft College of Adult Education
Hereward College of Further Education
Hilderstone College
Hillcroft College
The International Co-operative College
The Marine Society College of the Sea
Northern College for Residential AE Ltd
Plater College
Ruskin College

Work Permits

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how many work permit applications have been made to her Department for Premier and Endsleigh league footballers from overseas *(a)* during the past four years and *(b)* for 1995 to date; which English football clubs were involved; which countries of origin were involved; and how many applications were refused. [34871]

Mrs. Gillan: The number of work permit applications for footballers from overseas, including those for extensions to existing permits, received by the Department from clubs in Great Britain is shown in the following table. Information about which clubs applied, the nationality of these overseas players involved and the number of these applications which were refused is not available.

Year	*Number of applications*
1991	32
1992	30
1993	35
1994	22
1995	[1]36

[1] To date.

Child Care Provision

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment how much her Department spends on *(a)* child care provision for under-fives and *(b)* out of school provision for over fives, both directly, excluding provision for departmental staff, and indirectly through resources made available to local authorities and other organisations; what form of provision is provided; and how many full-time and part-time places are provided. [35555]

Mr. Robin Squire: Child care for the under-fives in England is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health.

For school-age children, we have allocated £45 million to the out-of-school child care initiative which will help create up to 50,000 additional child care places in Great Britain over the three years which began in April 1993. The initiative is being delivered by training and enterprise councils in England and Wales and local enterprise companies in Scotland. By the end of March 1995 some 26,000 child care places had been created in England with a further 5,000 in development, well on course to meet the planned target.

We do not hold information about the number of children who attend full or part-time, although attendance patterns are flexible to parents' needs.

Civil Servants

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will list for each civil service grade in her Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35468]

Mr. Robin Squire: The numbers of permanent non-industrial staff on 1 April 1995—before the recent machinery of Government changes—on a head count basis are shown in table 1 for the former Employment Department group and table 2 for the former Department for Education. There are staff in over 118 civil service grades employed in the former ED group and DfE. For convenience, the information has been grouped into grade equivalents.

Table 1: Former Employment Department Group

	Male		*Female*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
AA	899	20	1,889	591
AO	7,413	148	16,594	5,218
EO	4,577	53	6,992	2,070
HEO	1,977	9	1,274	187
SEO	1,468	5	434	67
G7	913	11	176	32
G6	174	3	27	1
G5	113	1	18	1
G4	13	0	1	0
G3	25	0	2	0
G2	4	0	1	0
G1	2	0	0	0
Total	17,579	250	27,408	8,167

Table 2: Former Department for Education

	Male		*Female*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
AA	101	2	186	26
AO	148	1	378	61
EO	183	0	254	39
HEO	176	1	155	23
SEO	77	4	40	8
G7	109	1	41	3
G6	12	0	3	0
G5	31	0	14	1
G4	2	0	0	0
G3	11	0	0	0
G2	3	0	0	0
G1	1	0	0	0
Total	854	9	1,071	161

Departmental Staff

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment if she will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each grade of the principal grades and

the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the number and percentages of these staff that are women, in her Department and for each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [35683]

Mr. Robin Squire: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my reply in the Library.

Female Employees

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what measures her Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within her Department and its executive agencies. [35661]

Mrs. Gillan: A wide range of measures have been taken. All parts of the Department and the Employment Service have equal opportunities action programmes, most of which include targets, and these are monitored on a regular basis. In addition, all promotion boards include at least one woman member and training in equal opportunities issues is mandatory for board members.

Development training is available for all staff, including optional training specifically for women. There are "fast track" management programmes available on which women are well represented. A career break scheme is available to help men and women to combine work and family responsibilities and eligible staff will be considered for promotion while on career breaks. Part-time working is available to all staff who want it and all jobs are open to job sharers wherever practicable. In addition, an advisory group has been set up to look at ways of addressing the under-representation of women in senior grades.

Unemployment Benefits (Cost)

Sir Ralph Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what is the current administration and overhead costs required to manage unemployment benefits including the current number of civil servants and job centres; and what was the figure in each year since 1980 at 1994 prices; [36304]

(2) what is the latest total and average figure of the cost of spending on the jobless; and what were the figures in 1978–79 at constant prices. [36303]

Mr. Forth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my reply in the Library.

Unemployment Assistance

Sir Ralph Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what is the total annual cost of all programmes designed to assist the unemployed back into work or by way of training; and how much is allocated to each major programme. [36306]

Mr. Paice: Provision for all programmes to assist the unemployed back into work in 1995–96 is £811 million. Over 90 per cent. of this provision is allocated to the seven major training and employment programmes set out in the table:

Programme	*£ million*
Training for Work	574
Community Action	73
Jobclubs	56
Jobplan	26
Job Interview Guarantee	22
1-2-1/Workwise	16
Restart Courses	11

1. Major programmes have been taken to mean those with expenditure of over £10 million.
2. The list excludes Youth Training and Modern Apprenticeships.

Barnsley-Doncaster TEC

Mr. Martin Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1) what performance level was reached by the Barnsley-Doncaster training and enterprise council for the year 1994–95; [35975]

(2) how many trainees are currently in training by the Barnsley-Doncaster TEC; [35971]

(3) what was the current expenditure per head of population in the area covered by Barnsley-Doncaster TEC; and if she will make a statement; [35977]

(4) what contribution Barnsley-Doncaster TEC is making to improve the technology in its area of responsibility; and if she will make a statement on the work of Barnsley-Doncaster TEC; [35973]

(5) when she last met with representatives from Barnsley-Doncaster TEC; and what items were discussed; [35972]

(6) how many NVQs were achieved by trainees from the Barnsley-Doncaster TEC for each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [35956]

Mr. Paice: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible and place a copy of my letter in the Library.

Mr. Martin Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, if she will list the chairman and directors of the Barnsley Doncaster TEC indicating their experience, qualifications and period of office. [35979]

Mr. Paice: The information requested on the chairman and directors of the Barnsley and Doncaster Training and Enterprise Council is a matter for the TEC board. TECs are private limited companies who are free to appoint directors, including chairmen, as long as they meet the criteria set out on clause 7.1 of the licensing agreement.

Mr Martin Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1) what research is being undertaken by the Barnsley-Doncaster TEC in the current financial year; and if she will make a statement; [35976]

(2) how many organisations Barnsley-Doncaster TEC was involved with during the current financial year; [35970]

(3) what is the amount of money spent by the Barnsley-Doncaster TEC on publicity and advertising during the last financial year and for each of the previous five years; and if she will make a statement; [35978]

(4) what was the total cost incurred by the Barnsley-Doncaster TEC in travelling expenses for each of the last five financial years. [35974]

Mr. Paice: The information requested is operational information on the Barnsley and Doncaster training and enterprise council and the questions would be best addressed to it for answer.

EU Contributions

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Employment what financial contribution the European Union made to Government-funded work or training schemes in Northern Ireland in 1994–95; to which schemes the European Union contributed; and what percentage of the publicly-funded costs the European Union's contribution constituted. [34026]

Mr. Ancram: I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for the subject in question has been delegated to the Training and Employment Agency under its chief executive, Mr. J. S. Crozier. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given .

Letter from J. S. Crozier to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Education and Employment has asked me, as Chief Executive of the Training and Employment Agency, to reply to your question.

The financial contribution made by the European Union to Government-funded training places in Northern Ireland is affected by the allocation made to non-government schemes. Decisions on the latter have yet to be finalised. The final amounts that will be received therefore in respect of government and non-government schemes is not yet known. When the information you seek is available, I will send it to you.

DEFENCE

Trident Missiles

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the United Kingdom proposes to order further quantities of Trident missiles; and if he will make a statement. [36608]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Over half our planned number of Trident missiles has been purchased. Orders for the remainder are likely to be placed within the next four years and we have recently begun to commit expenditure to this end. Overall the Trident programme remains well within its original estimate. Savings in real terms on the missile purchases exceed 30 per cent., partly due to intervening exchange rate movements.

Joint Air Reconnaissance Centre

Mr. Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement about his plans for the joint air reconnaissance centre. [36385]

Mr. Soames: The joint air reconnaissance intelligence centre is a tri-service unit at Royal Air Force Brampton. The unit employs about 500 staff comprising military personnel from all three armed services and civil servants. The unit is the Department's centre of excellence for deriving intelligence from reconnaissance imagery. We have accepted a recommendation made by the defence costs study that the unit should be considered for Defence Agency status with a target launch date of 2 April 1996.

Royal Navy (Manning, Pay and Pensions)

Mr. Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement about possible defence agency status for the Royal Navy's manning and pay and pensions organisations. [36386]

Mr. Soames: I have decided that the Royal Navy's manning and pay and pensions organisations, with their supporting information systems should be considered as candidates for defence agency status under the "next steps" initiative. The above organisations, located in Portsmouth and Gosport, currently employ some 750 staff, of whom about a third are service personnel.

A "prior options" study will be undertaken to establish whether agency status or other options would be appropriate. I would welcome comments form interested parties. Comments should be sent, by 15 September 1995, to:

Mr. J. M. Moss
Command Secretary to the Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Assistant Under-Secretary of State (Naval Personnel) (CS/AUS(NP))
Ministry of Defence
Victory Building
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LS

Defence Intelligence and Security Training

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on his plans for defence intelligence and security training in the armed forces. [36387]

Mr. Soames: Defence intelligence and security training is tri-service and carried out at units based at Ashford, Kent, and Garats Hay stations; Royal Air Force North Luffenham and Wyton; and HMS Mercury. The units currently employ about 650 staff comprising military personnel from all three armed services and civil servants. Their task is to provide training and advice on intelligence and security disciplines and policy to the armed forces. I have accepted a recommendation made by the defence costs study that these units be rationalised. A new defence intelligence and security centre is to be formed and considered as a candidate for defence agency status under the "next steps" initiative. This will start with a "prior options" review and, if agency status is approved, a target launch date of 1 October 1996 will be set.

Service Children's Schools

Mr. Michael Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the key targets for the financial year 1995–96 which have been set for the Service Children's Schools (North West Europe) defence agency. [36391]

Mr. Soames: The chief executive of Service Children's Schools (North West Europe) has been set the following key targets for 1995–96, the agency's fifth year of operation:

1. Maintain percentage of pupils gaining A to C grades in five or more subjects at GCSE at not less than 45 per cent.

2. Maintain the 'A' level pass rate at grades A to E at 84 per cent. whilst increasing the proportion in grades A to C to 50 per cent.

3. Achieve an overall pass rate for BTEC first diploma of 85 per cent.

4. For standard attainment tasks and tests (SATs) at ages 7, 11 and 14 achieve a position for the agency in the top 25 per cent. of published national league tables.

5. Improved efficiency to the value of 2.5 per cent. of net expenditure for 1995–96 as set out in the agency's efficiency plan.

6. For all children in key stage 2, by 31 March 1996 every school to have an educationally sound programme of contact with a host nation and/or partner school or community with predetermined educational objectives appropriate to the age of the children.

7. Maintain the index of satisfaction with Service Children's Schools within the army wives continuous attitude survey at above 350.

8. Parental response surveys to be conducted in three spheres of education, results published and follow up action initiated, where necessary by 31 March 1996.

9. Introduce by 31 March 1996, and thereafter maintain, the new code of practice for assessing children's special educational needs set by the Department of Education.

10. Achieve charter mark status by 1 December 1995.

Naval Aircraft Repair Organisation

Mr. Michael Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the Naval Aircraft Repair Organisation defence agency has reported its financial performance for the financial year 1994–95; and what targets have been agreed for 1995–96. [36392]

Mr. Soames: Copies of the Naval Aircraft Repair Organisation defence agency's annual report and accounts for financial year 1994–95 have been placed in the Library of the House.

In respect of financial year 1995–96 the Direct General Aircraft (Navy), acting as owner of the agency on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence under the terms of the agency's framework document, has set the following key targets:

Quantity

To complete 100 per cent. of the identified core task as detailed in DGA(N)'s Tri Service Schedule of Identified Repair Work.

Quality

To improve by four the NARO Quality Index, which represents the weighted number of AQAP non conformances.

Timeliness

To complete 93.5 per cent. of contracts on time.

Productivity

To improve annual productivity to 620 Direct Output Units per employee.

Cost

To reduce the cost of a Direct Output Unit by more than 7.5 per cent. below 1991–92 (pre Agency Launch) levels.

Efficiency Index

To improve the NARO Efficiency Index to 0.635.

RAF Training Group

Mr. John Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement about the key targets for the financial year 1995–96 for the Royal Air Force Training Group defence agency. [36393]

Mr. Soames: The chief executive of the Royal Air Force Training Group defence agency has been set the following targets for financial year 1995–96.

1. By 31 March 1996 to take forward the recommendations of the Quality Management Workshop Report.

2. By 31 March 1996 to achieve the planned elements of Future Flying Training Implementation and Group Training Rationalisation, including the associated Defence Costs Study measures, in accordance with the relevant schedules.

3. By 31 March 1996 to deliver efficiency measures to achieve a 2.5 per cent. reduction in running costs.

4. By 31 March 1996 to achieve the planned elements of the Agency's contribution to the RAF manpower savings programme.

5. By 31 March 1996 to complete the planned work against the Agency's Competing for Quality programme.

6. By 31 March 1996 to develop and implement the Agency's fixed asset management strategy, procedures and reporting systems.

7. By 31 March 1996 to report on business process re-engineering and the development of associated financial and accounting systems required by the Department's move to Resource Accounting and Budgeting

Personnel Security Vetting

Mr. John Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement about possible defence agency status for personnel security vetting within his Department. [36394]

Mr. Soames: Defence costs studies conducted in my Department have concluded that the personnel security vetting function in the MOD should be considered for defence agency status under the "next steps" initiative. A "prior options" study will be undertaken to establish whether agency status or some other option is the more appropriate. The result of this study will be made known to the House in due course.

Queen's Flight (Incident at Islay)

Mr. Butcher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the findings of the inquiry into the incident at Islay in June 1994 involving an aircraft of the Queen's flight. [36349]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The inquiry into the incident on 29 June 1994 when a BAe 146 of the Queen's flight ran off the runway after landing at Islay has been completed and I have placed a summary in the Library of the House. The captain and navigator were responsible for the safe operation of the aircraft and the supervision of HRH the Prince of Wales, who was flying as a pilot under instruction. The inquiry judged that the captain and navigator had been negligent in failing adequately to plan and to correct the approach and landing. Procedures for appointments of aircrew to the Queen's Flight—now part of No. 32 (The Royal)

Squadron—flight deck procedures and evaluation of standards have been reviewed as a result of this incident and changes have been made.

Disposal Sales Agency

Mr. Jacques Arnold: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement detailing the key targets which have been set for the Disposal Sales Agency for financial year 1995–96.

Mr. Arbuthnot: The chief executive of the Disposal Sales Agency has been set the following targets for financial year 1995–96. The agency made significant efficiency savings in 1994–95 and the 1995–96 targets build on that achievement.

1. To achieve disposal sales revenue of £53 million within budgetary cost allocation.

2. To improve efficiency through the contractorisation of sales and introduction of further viable storage and marketing agreements (joint ventures with industry) to limit the Agency's direct selling to Government-to-Government sales and to those direct sales offering best value for money.

3. To secure efficiency savings of 2.5 per cent. against the Agency's net annual budget.

4. To achieve full recovery on non-MOD work.

5. To achieve customer satisfaction as measured by satisfaction surveys.

To implement Performance Indicators covering Timeliness, Financial Performance, Quality and Output.

Swansea Symposium (Environment and Defence)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from his Department, and of what grades, will participate in the University of Wales conference in Swansea on the environment and defence from 13 to 15 September; and if he will list the titles of papers being presented by members of his Department at the conference. [35633]

Mr. Soames: The Swansea symposium is being held in association with the NATO committee on the challenges of modern society and will provide an opportunity for NATO and former Warsaw pact countries to exchange information and views about environmental problems arising from defence-related activities. My Department will play a key role in the symposium, but representation has not been finalised. In addition to keynote addresses, papers by Ministry of Defence staff will be presented in the planned technical sessions on pollution prevention, low flying, information technology in defence land management, military land use issues, environmental assessment of defence activities and environmental training.

Exercise Chameleon

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on *(a)* the purpose and *(b)* the participating forces in Exercise Chameleon at Brawdy in April. [35638]

Mr. Soames: Exercise Chameleon was a routine exercise that took place between 23 April and 1 May designed to test the abilities of the three services to work together effectively in an operational environment. Elements of the French armed forces also took part.

NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the NATO committee on the challenges of modern society pilot study groups in which his Department currently participates; and how many personnel, and of what grades, participate in each. [35632]

Mr. Soames: My Department is actively involved in two NATO CCMS pilot studies: defence environmental expectations and environmental aspects of the re-use of former military lands. A grade 5 officer is the co-chairman of the former study. A grade 5 officer is a member of the executive board of the latter study with a grade 7 attending sub-group meetings of the study.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from his Department, and of what grades, participated in the NATO committee on the challenges of modern society meeting on environmental aspects of re-using former military lands in Munich in October 1994; and if he will make a statement on the changes in his policy on use of former military lands arising from the pilot study on this subject. [35631]

Mr. Soames: My Department was represented by one grade 5 officer at the meeting. This meeting is one of a series associated with this NATO CCMS pilot study. Work is continuing and MOD policy will be examined in the light of any future recommendations.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration his Department is giving to authorising operations by military unmanned aerial vehicles in controlled airspace over the United Kingdom. [35645]

Mr. Soames: Military unmanned aerial vehicles currently only operate within MOD controlled airspace within existing danger areas. There are no plans at present for them to operate within any other controlled airspace within the United Kingdom.

Low Flying

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sorties were undertaken by Tornados of the tri-national Tornado training establishment from RAF Leuchars under the winter venture deployment scheme in winter 1994–95; and how many of these involved low level flying. [35648]

Mr. Soames: A total of 198 sorties were flown, of which 184 involved low level flying.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sorties were conducted by *(a)* B-52s and *(b)* F-111s of the US Air Force during their recent deployment to RAF Fairford; how many of each were authorised low flying sorties; and if he will list the numbered low flying areas used by these aircraft during their deployment to the United Kingdom. [35641]

Mr. Soames: United States Air Force B-52s conducted 60 sorties during their deployment to RAF Fairford, eight of which involved flying within the UK low flying system. United States Air Force F-111s conducted 122

sorties during their deployment, 48 of which involved flying within the UK low flying system. The aircraft used the following low flying areas during their deployment to the UK: 2, 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17. Of these only low flying areas 13 and 14 were used by USAF B-52s.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many low flying sorties by British military aircraft have taken place over Slovakia since August 1994; and how many sorties are planned for 1995. [35647]

Mr. Soames: RAF aircraft have to date flown no low flying sorties over Slovakia and at present there are no plans for them to do so. We shall, however, continue to explore the prospects for low level flying with our partners in the region.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for increased Royal Air Force use of the low flying training facilities at Goose bay following the completion of the environmental assessment report on operations from the base. [35646]

Mr. Soames: We have no plans at present to seek an increase in the RAF's annual allocation of low level sorties at the Goose bay facility. Operational and other training commitments do mean, however, that actual usage within the agreed ceiling varies from year to year.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the nature and purpose of the deployments of Italian air force Tornados to RAF Cottesmore from 3 to 7 July, 24 to 28 July and 4 to 8 September; and what written agreements exist between his Department and the Italian authorities governing Italian air force combat aircraft deployments to the United Kingdom for low flying, weapons and electronic warfare training. [35639]

Mr. Soames: The purpose of the Italian air force Tornado detachments to RAF Cottesmore is to utilise the electronic warfare range at RAF Spadeadam and to carry out low flying training within the United Kingdom low flying system. No written agreements exist; I refer the hon. Member to the replies to his questions of 10 January, *Official Report, c.103* and 2 December last year, *Official Report, c.943.*

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances have been recorded in each of the last three years in which investigation of a complaint about low flying found that no aircraft had booked in to the relevant low flying area at the reported time of the incident. [35643]

Mr. Soames: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Foulkes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the nature of the aerial activity at low level *(a)* in the vicinity of Bargrennan on 27 June, *(b)* in the vicinity of Waterside, Doon Valley, on 28 June, *(c)* in the vicinity of Lochinvar, New Galloway, on 29 June, *(d)* in the vicinity of Auchenstroan Craig, Moniaive, on 30 June, *(e)* in the vicinity of Stroanfreggan on 3 July and *(f)* in the vicinity of Kendoon Loch on 4 July and in the vicinity of Craighead in the Dalwhat Valley and other locations in the south-west of Scotland throughout this period as notified in "Notice to Airmen J1477". [34351]

Mr. Soames: The activity notified in "Notice to Airmen J1477/95" on the dates and at the locations listed in the question was close air support training down to 100 ft by Harrier aircraft of No. 4 Squadron. This training was part of the squadron's work-up before deployment in support of NATO air operations over Bosnia-Herzogovina

Military Activities (Environmental Impact)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from his Department, and of what grades, participated in the United Nations Environment Programme meeting on military activities and the environment in Linkoping, Sweden, from 27 to 30 June; and if he will make a statement on the proposals arising from this meeting for the development of his policies in respect of mitigating the environmental impact of his Department's activities. [35630]

Mr. Soames: The defence attaché at the British embassy, Stockholm attended the Linkoping conference. MOD will review the proceedings and recommendations of the Linkoping conference when these are received.

RAF Aldergrove (Chinooks)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Chinook captains are currently assigned to Royal Air Force Aldergrove; how many of these have self-authorising status; and if he will make a statement. [35933]

Mr. Soames: My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Chinook ZD 576

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the forecast height of the +4 Celsius isotherm along the route of Chinook ZD 576 on 2 June 1994. [35948]

Mr. Soames: Approximately 4,500 ft above mean sea level.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours of sleep were obtained by the pilot and co-pilot of Chinook ZD 576 in the 24 hours prior to their accident on 2 June 1994. [35946]

Mr. Soames: It was not possible for the board of inquiry to ascertain how much sleep the two pilots had in the 24 hours prior to the accident. There is no evidence, however, to suggest that either officer had anything other than a relaxing evening with adequate rest.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what were the minimum forecast visibility and cloudbase on the planned route of Chinook ZD 576 from Royal Air Force Aldergrove to Fort George on 2 June 1994; [35942]

(2) on how many occasions the pilot and co-pilot of Chinook ZD 576 on 2 June 1994 had flown at low level from Royal Air Force Aldergrove to Fort George in the previous 12 months; [35932]

(3) what is the maximum permitted number of *(a)* flying hours and *(b)* duty hours in any 24-hour period for Chinook aircrew assigned to Royal Air Force Aldergrove; what are the differences between these limits and those applying to Chinook aircrew assigned to other stations; and what changes have been made to the limits at Aldergrove since 2 June 1994; [35947]

(4) how many complete Chinook flight crews were *(a)* assigned to and *(b)* available for duty at Royal Air Force Aldergrove on 2 June 1994; and what is the normal planned number of available flight crews. [35944]

Mr. Soames: My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

RAF Jaguar (Accident)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the loss of an RAF Jaguar in the Adriatic sea in June. [35635]

Mr. Soames: A Jaguar GRIA on detachment from RAF Coltishall to Gioia del Colle was engaged in a routine training sortie on 21 June when it crashed into the Adriatic sea off the Italian coast. The pilot ejected safely and sustained only minor injuries. A RAF board of inquiry has been convened and a summary of its findings will be placed in the Library of the House in due course.

Tornado Training Establishment

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on future plans for the organisation and location of the tri-national Tornado training establishment. [35636]

Mr. Soames: The requirement for tri-national Tornado training establishment is kept under review by the participating nations. Any proposal affecting its future organisation or location would require detailed discussions between the parties involved before any announcement could be made.

Defence Conversion Strategies

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from his Department, and of what grades, participated in the NATO Advanced Study Institute on defence conversion strategies held in Pitlochry from 1 to 14 July; and if he will list the titles of papers presented by members of his Department at the conference. [35634]

Mr. Soames: The Ministry of Defence's chief scientific adviser attended the conference on 7 July to deliver a paper on "Dual-use technology". A grade 3 official from the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency presented a paper on "Civil/Defence Strategies in the United Kingdom." These apart, I understand that one other grade 6 Ministry of Defence official attended.

Chemical Weapons

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what were the conclusions of the tests and studies conducted by the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, involving service volunteers to determine the degree of incapacitation following exposure to CR gas; and what was the nature of the exercise tests; [35080]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 24 February, *Official Report*, column *377*, how much CR gas was produced at Nacekuke in total; [35083]

(3) pursuant to his answer of 24 February, *Official Report*, column *378*, when the results of the physiological tests to determine the effects of CR gas on the respiratory and cardiovascular systems were first exchanged with the United States of America. [35079]

Mr. Soames: These matters are for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, DERA, to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Harry Cohen, dated 19 July 1995:

Your questions to the Secretary of State for Defence asking about the degree of incapacitation caused by agent CR, how much of the agent was produced, and whether results were shared with the USA, have been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions. This reply covers all three questions.

Approximately two tonnes of CR were manufactured at the Chemical Defence Establishment Nancekuke, most of the production occurring in the mid 1970's. The tests which were carried out at CDE Porton Down with CR involving Service Volunteers concluded, as Dr Pearson informed you in his letter of 19 December 1994, that CR caused sensory irritation and was ten time more potent than CS. Exercise tests would have involved walking and stretching routines. As to date on which this information was exchanged with the United State of America I am afraid I can add no more of Dr Pearson's letter to you of 12 May 1993, a copy of which I attach for ease.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 20 December, *Official Report*, column *1175*, in which years the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment carried out the work to reach the assessment that, with an appropriate stabiliser, there was little decomposition of GD over three years; what was the stabiliser in this case; and when the results of this work were first shared with the United States of America; [35078]

(2) what assessment the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment has made of the shelf life of thickened GD; [35076]

(3) pursuant to his answer of 24 February, *Official Report*, column *377*, in which years the work into the ease of acquisition of the precursors for GD was carried out; when the results of this research were first exchanged with the United States of America; and under which defence agreements these results were exchanged with the United States of America. [35075]

Mr. Soames: These matters are for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, DERA, to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Harry Cohen, dated 19 July 1995:

Your Questions to the Secretary of State for Defence about the acquisition of the precursors to nerve agent GD, the assessments made on its stability and shelf life have been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions. This reply covers all three questions.

Work to determine the ease of acquisition of the precursors of synthesis of GD was carried out as part of the research into the synthesis of the agent. It is not possible to determine the exact date on which work on precursor acquisition was carried out but it is likely this type of information was available by 1954. The work you refer to on the stability of GD was carried out at Chemical Defence Establishment Nancekuke between 1965–1968 and the stabiliser used was diisopropylcarbodiimide. No long term studies have been made to assess the shelf life of thickened GD.

Results of both of these programmes of work would have been shared as part of the continuing programme of information exchange and collaboration between the United States of America and the United Kingdom but specific dates for the exact time of exchange are now difficult to ascertain.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 24 February, *Official Report*, columns *378–79*, when the results of the research into GF were first exchanged with the United States of America. [35077]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, DERA, to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Harry Cohen, dated 19 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking when the results of research into GF were first exchanged with the USA has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions

From the records available it is difficult to determine the exact date on which results of the work were first communicated to the United States but the exchange of this type of information would appear to have begun in 1947.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what were the conclusions of the skin and eye sensitivity tests conducted by the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, involving CS gas and service volunteers; [35082]

(2) from what source the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment obtained the CS gas for its tests and studies involving service volunteers. [35081]

Mr. Soames: These matters are for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, DERA, to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Harry Cohen, dated 19 July 1995:

Your questions to the Secretary of State for Defence asking about the tests into the skin and eye sensitivity of CS gas and the source of the CS have been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which now includes the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) as one of its Divisions. This reply covers both questions.

The tests of eye and skin sensitivity conducted using Service Volunteers concluded that CS caused short term irritation to the sensory nerve endings giving rise to watering of the eyes and a burning or stinging sensation in the skin. The studies showed the value of CS as a non lethal gas for use in circumstances such as military training. The research quantities of CS used in these studies were manufactured at Chemical Defence Establishment, Nacekuke until shortly before its closure and then subsequently at CBDE Porton Down until 1990. Since 1990 CS has been manufactured by a commercial operator using the processes developed at CBDE.

I hope this information is helpful.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work has been carried out by the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment into the sensory irritant agent bromobenzyl cyanide; when this work was carried out; where this work was carried out; what were the purpose and conclusions of this work; and if this work involved service volunteers. [35084]

Mr. Soames: This matter is for the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, under its framework document. I have asked the chief executive, DERA, to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from John Chisholm to Mr. Harry Cohen, dated 19 July 1995:

Your Question to the Secretary of State for Defence asking for information on the work carried out on the sensory irritant agent bromobenzyl cyanide (BBC) at the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment (CBDE) has been passed to me to reply as the Chief Executive of the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) which includes CBDE as one of its Divisions.

Studies involving the sensory irritant BBC were carried out between the First and Second World Wars at the Chemical Defence Establishments at Porton Down and Sutton Oak. Exposure of Service Volunteers to BBC would have been part of the research programme and the conclusions of the investigations were that BBC caused sensory irritation and would be a useful tear gas. As a result of this work BBC was employed as the standard in-service tear gas during World War II.

Explosives and Propellants

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Leyton on 10 July, *Official Report*, column *466*, what is his Department's calculation of the financial benefits to Royal Ordnance of the EPREP—explosives, propellants and related end products—agreement. [35133]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Ministry of Defence can assess the financial benefit of the EPREP agreement to Royal Ordnance only in terms of its total value which amounts to orders to the value of £560 million during the five-year tenure of the agreement.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the explosives, propellants and end products agreement. [35132]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The explosives, propellants and related end products agreement between the Ministry of Defence and Royal Ordnance plc, now the Royal Ordnance Division of British Aerospace Defence Ltd., is "commercial-in-confidence". It is not the practice of Government to place commercial-in-confidence documents in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what agreement, formal or informal, covered the matters now covered by the explosives, propellants and related end products agreement before its signing. [35051]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The explosives, propellants and end products agreement subsumed two previous agreements: the explosives and propellants agreement of 18 August 1986, as amended by subsequent side letters, and the small arms ammunition agreement of September 1986. The E and P agreement attempted to secure the capability of producing certain military explosives and propellants in the UK by the MOD undertaking to procure its requirements from the Royal Ordnance for the duration of the agreement, that is, until August 1989. The SAA agreement derived from the E and P agreement and specifically committed the MOD to placing non-competitively with RO its requirements for 5.56 mm and 7.62 mm ammunition for the period 1986–87 to 1988–89 and 9 mm ammunition for the period 1987–88 to 1988–89.

Radiation Tests (Compensation)

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many claims for compensation his Department has received since 1965 relating to radiation tests on humans; and if he will make a statement. [34478]

Mr. Soames: We are not aware of any such claims, other than in relation to alleged exposure to ionising radiation during the atmospheric nuclear test programme in the 1950s and early 1960s. If those involved had been subjected, accidentally or otherwise, to dangerous levels of radiation, however, an overall excess of death and of cancer would have been expected among British nuclear test veterans subsequently. In fact, studies by the National Radiological Protection Board of over 20,000 British nuclear test veterans have found no overall excess of death or cancer.

Bosnia (Rapid Deployment Force)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the British contribution to the rapid deployment force in Bosnia is still in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [35267]

Mr. Soames: A British battalion group of over 800 personnel is already in Bosnia as part of our contribution to UNPROFOR's rapid reaction force. In addition, the deployment of 24 Airmobile Brigade is continuing with some 1,100 troops in theatre to prepare for the arrival of the main body of the brigade. It is planned to have completed the deployment of over 4,000 personnel by mid-August.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34706]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Government continue to place a high priority on helping small businesses through improvements to the business climate, through deregulation and through specific programmes of support and assistance.

Measures operated by my Department to assist small businesses include:

1. The services of the Defence Suppliers Service which meets and corresponds annually with several thousand suppliers, a very large proportion of which are small firms, offering advice on ways in which they can bring their goods and services to the attention of our buyers. The DSS also supports business links, which provide business counselling and support small businesses.

2. The promotion of the many opportunities which exist to sell to the Department by publicising contracts in various publications including the Defence Contracts Bulletin, which is a particularly useful source of sub-contract opportunities.

3. Systematically reviewing our contracting processes to ensure that all administrative procedures are still required and to reduce any unnecessary burdens on businesses. When considering new contracting policies and procedures, we take particular account of the implications for businesses of all sizes.

Human Remains (Underwater Searches)

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many underwater searches for human remains have been conducted in *(a)* British, *(b)* international and *(c)* foreign waters in each of the last five years. [35736]

Mr. Soames: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what facilities his Department possesses for the underwater searching and detection of human remains. [35735]

Mr. Soames: My Department does not possess facilities with an area search capability which could be used to locate human remains underwater. Searches could be carried out by divers, but would be limited in depth and duration due to decompression requirements.

Music Teaching Courses

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report*, columns *182–83*, if he will provide the number presently taking part in each higher music teaching course and the annual cost of running each course. [36120]

Mr. Soames: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Military Assistance (Training)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 3 April, *Official Report*, columns *968–69*, if for each year he will state the countries and the number from each who were trained. [35265]

Mr. Soames: Details of the military assistance provided to other countries are confidential between

Governments. Over the period in question training costs for students from the following non-NATO countries were wholly or partially waived by the Ministry of Defence:

1989–90

Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Chile, Dominica, Egypt, Fiji, Grenada, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE and Yemen.

1990–91

Antigua, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Chile, Dominica, Egypt, Fiji, Grenada, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and UAE.

1991–92

Antigua, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Dominica, Egypt, Fiji, Grenada, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and UAE.

1992–93

Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Chile, Dominica, Egypt, Grenada, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Montserrat, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Senegal, Thailand, UAE and Uruguay.

1993–94

Albania, Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Dominica, Egypt, Grenada, Hungary, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Latvia, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Senegal, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and UAE.

Military Hardware (Accidents)

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list all items of military hardware over £25,000 in value lost through accidents in each of the last five years. [35445]

Mr. Soames: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Homosexuals (Armed Forces)

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to improve the situation of gay men and lesbian women within the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [35444]

Mr. Soames: We are considering at present the High Court judgment in the recent judicial review cases involving four former service personnel who were discharged on the grounds of homosexuality. Appeals in these cases are pending. In the meantime, it remains our policy to exclude homosexuals from the armed forces.

Livestock Exports (Airfields)

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has *(a)* for allowing the use of airfields for exporting livestock from the United Kingdom and *(b)* for the sale of airfields to exporters of livestock; and if he will make a statement. [34860]

Mr. Soames: No plans exist to allow the use of my Department's airfields for the export of livestock, or for the disposal of any surplus airfields for this purpose.

Aircraft (British Grand Prix)

Mr. Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft belonging or chartered to Her Majesty's armed forces were present at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on 16 July; and for what purposes. [36206]

Mr. Soames: I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital

Mr. Austin-Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the legal obstacles to the transfer of services from the Brook hospital to the Queen Elizabeth Military hospital, Woolwich; and if he will make a statement. [35937]

Mr. Soames: There are a number of important contractual issues to be resolved before my Department will be in a position to sell the Queen Elizabeth Military hospital to the Greenwich Healthcare trust. As negotiations are still subject to contract, we regard the specific details of such matters as in confidence between the two parties. Officials from the MOD are, however, in close contact with the Greenwich Healthcare trust, and we are optimistic about reaching an amicable solution on all outstanding issues shortly.

Mast Manning

Mr. Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the future of mast-manning in the Royal Navy. [35139]

Mr. Soames: Personnel who form the Royal Navy mast manning display team are drawn from the pool of manpower that is temporarily surplus to requirements. This surplus which has enabled formation of the team in recent years, will not be available in future as strengths are brought more into line with naval requirements. Any future formation of the team could be achieved only by the diversion of ratings from priority tasks.

Royal Yacht

Mr. David Martin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the latest estimate of savings to his Department's budget of the proposed decommissioning of the Royal Yacht Britannia. [34758]

Mr. Soames: As a result of the Government's decision to decommission HMY Britannia in 1997, her planned refit in 1996–97 will not be necessary; this will save some £17,000,000. In addition, Britannia's running costs of about £10,000,000 per annum will be saved.

Early Retirement and Redundancy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the cost of early retirement and redundancy packages for armed forces personnel in the last year for which figures are available. [35129]

Mr. Soames: During financial year 1994–95 redundancy payments of £453,000,000 were made. This figure includes special capital payments, early payment of terminal grants, commuted pension payments and the first year's early payment of immediate pensions.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what has been the total amount of redundancy payments paid to British service personnel who have left the armed forces under the "Options for Change" policies as of 1 July. [34077]

Mr. Soames: The current redundancy programme began in financial year 1992–93. In that year redundancy payments of £232,000,000 were made. In 1993–94 and 1994–95 the payments totalled £509,000,000 and £453,000,000 respectively.

These payments include special capital payments, and early payment of terminal grants, commuted pension payments and the first year's payment of immediate pensions.

Surplus Land and Houses

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the surplus land and houses sold by his Department by auction in each of the last three financial years; if he will give the price obtained; and if he will make a statement. [35028]

Mr. Soames: From the available records the following properties have been identified as having been sold by auction in the financial years as shown:

	£
Financial year 1992–93	
Two building plots adjacent to 5/10 Dobbie Road, Long Marston	75,000
Building plot at rear of 24–28 Norton Close, Worcester	35,500
White Lodge, HMS Mercury, Petersfield	95,000
4 Cranfield Drive, London	47,000
4 Married Quarters and 5 garages, Golden Valley Estate, Folkstone	145,000
2 Married Quarters, Dagets Wood, Chatham	65,750
20 acres (sportsfield) Coldblow near Deal	21,000
Financial year 1993–94	
St. Albans Hall, Lynchford Road, Farnborough	117,000
Four lots of land RAF Greatworth, Northamptonshire	109,000
Horse Sands Fort, The Solent	45,860
Nos 4 -27, 9, 12, 15 and 17 Poplar Way, Colerne, Wiltshire	145,000
Nos 1–21 (odd) Elm Road, Colerne, Wiltshire	190,000
Nos 2–6 Cherry Road, 2–12 (even) Elm Road, 6–10 Hazel Way, Colerne, Wiltshire	330,000
Sopley Bunker, Harpway Lane, Christchurch	151,000
50 Fareham Road, Gosport	27,000
52 Beechwood Drive, Woodford Green, Essex	32,000
Financial year 1994–95	
Ex Warning and Monitoring Post, Church Lawford, Rugby	248,200
2 x Woodside Cottages, Lyneham	101,500
180 Priory Road, Gosport	30,500

Departmental Property (Evictions)

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many proceedings to evict irregular occupants for non-payment of rent have been initiated in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [35031]

Mr. Soames: In the last five years, my Department has initiated 370 proceedings to evict irregular occupants for non-payment of rent, although there is very rarely any need for an actual eviction to take place, and in the last two years for which figures are available there have been no evictions. A year by year breakdown of this figure is given in the table:

	Number
1991	[1]6
1992	77
1993	142
1994	112
1995	[2]33

[1] Note that the figure for 1991 is for Royal Air Force only.
[2] To date.

Manadon Engineering School

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many bids have been received for the Royal Navy's engineering school at Manadon, Plymouth; if he will name the successful bidder, indicating the price obtained; and if he will make a statement. [35030]

Mr. Soames: A recent marketing campaign for Royal Naval Engineering College Manadon produced six serious responses from prospective purchasers. Following analysis of the proposals, it was decided that the sale should be completed by formal tender. Invitations to tender will be issued shortly with a closing date for bids approximately one month thereafter.

MOD Properties (Illegal Occupation)

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received in respect of the illegal occupation of empty Ministry of Defence premises; how many premises have been illegally occupied; and if he will make a statement. [35029]

Mr. Soames: I am aware of no representations having been received in respect of the illegal occupation of empty Ministry of Defence premises. We are aware of five married quarters which have been illegally occupied during the last year.

Ferry Purchases

Mr. Colvin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what military requirements two ferry vessels are required as set out in "Future Purchase No. NSSB3B/60758"; what consideration has been given to leasing or contract hiring of such vessels; what equivalent vessels were in use at Portland for the purpose of transfer of naval training staff to warships; and if he will make a statement. [34755]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The requirement set out in "Future Purchase No. NSSBSB/60758" of the June 1995 issue of the MOD "Contracts Bulletin" is for two specialist passenger craft to transfer naval personnel from Plymouth to and from warships and auxiliaries in open water in support of Flag Officer Sea Training when this task moves from Portland. We are currently considering a number of procurement options, including leasing, before establishing procurement strategy aimed at achieving best value for money for the defence budget. The vessels currently in use at Portland are not capable of meeting the

requirement to transfer personnel safely in the significantly rougher seas experienced off Plymouth.

Memoranda of Understanding

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what considerations led him to diverge from his policy of not divulging details of memoranda of understanding in his answer to the honourable Member for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley (Mr. Foulkes) of 27 October 1992, *Official Report*, columns *614–15*, on the memorandum of understanding signed in September 1992 by the United Kingdom and Indonesian Governments. [36326]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The memorandum of understanding referred to was signed at the Farnborough air show and the answer given to the hon. Member for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley at the time may have reflected the possibility of some information about it being in the public domain.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what considerations led him to diverge from his policy of not divulging details of memoranda of understanding in his answer to the hon. Member for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley (Mr. Foulkes) of 27 October 1992, *Official Report*, columns *614–15*, on the memorandum of understanding signed in September 1992 by the United Kingdom and Indonesian Governments. [36326]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The memorandum of understanding referred to was signed at the Farnborough air show and the answer given to the hon. Member for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley at the time may have reflected the possibility of some information about it being in the public domain.

Civil Servants

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35466]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The number of male and female full-time and part-time staff employed by my Department and its agencies is set out in the table.

Grades within the Open Structure and Occupational Groups—1 April 1995	*Full-time staff*			*Part-time staff*		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Open Structure Grade 1 (including 1A)	5	0	5	0	0	0
Open Structure Grade 2 (including UIPP (Higher))	8	0	8	0	0	0
Open Structure Grade 3 (including UIPP (Lower))	43	2	45	0	0	0
Open Structure Grade 4	29	1	30	0	0	0
Open Structure Grade 5	259	15	274	0	1	1
Open Structure Grade 6	703	23	726	1	0	1
Open Structure Grade 7	2,654	130	2,784	16	13	29
Senior Executive Officer	1,114	195	1,309	2	6	8
Administration Fast Stream HEO(D))	12	10	22	0	0	0
Administration Fast Stream (AT(HEO)(NEW))	3	1	4	0	0	0
Higher Executive Officer	2,097	954	3,051	2	54	56
Administration Fast Stream (AT)	6	0	6	0	0	0
Executive Officer	2,931	2,792	5,723	7	193	200
Administrative Officer	3,969	9,375	13,344	20	902	922
Administrative Assistant	1,375	4,425	5,800	26	786	812
Senior Economic Assistant	1	0	1	0	0	0
Senor Assistant Statistician	0	1	1	0	0	0
Assistant Statistician	2	1	3	0	0	0
Senior Information Officer	30	7	37	0	0	0
Information Officer	35	23	58	0	0	0
Assistant Information Officer	1	0	1	0	0	0
Senior Librarian	10	7	17	0	0	0
Librarian	19	29	48	0	0	0
Assistant Librarian	12	33	45	0	5	5
Museum Curatorial Group Grade D	5	0	5	0	0	0
Museum Curatorial Group Grade E	7	2	9	0	0	0
Museum Curatorial Group Grade F	7	2	9	0	0	0
Museum Curatorial Group Grade G	1	5	6	0	0	0
Senior Mapping and Charting Officer	85	20	105	1	5	6
Higher Mapping and Charting Officer	191	38	229	0	2	2
Mapping and Charting Officer	355	96	451	0	41	41
Mapping and Charting Technical Grade 1	108	61	169	1	10	11
Mapping and Charting Technical Grade 2	31	32	63	1	9	10
Senior Professional and Technology Officer	2,320	19	2,339	2	1	3
Higher Professional and Technology Officer	3,726	53	3,779	4	2	6
Professional and Technology Officer	4,561	85	4,646	1	5	6
Professional and Technology Officer IV(obs)	3	0	3	0	0	0
Technical Grade 1	268	105	373	0	0	7
Technical Grade 2	16	14	30	0	0	2
Graduate Trainee	50	0	50	0	0	0
Trainee Incorporated Engineer	12	2	14	0	0	0
Senior Graphics Officer	10	1	11	0	0	0
Higher Graphics Officer	47	2	49	0	0	0
Graphics Technical Grade	1	0	1	0	0	0
Graphics Officer	166	29	195	0	1	1

Grades within the Open Structure and Occupational Groups—1 April 1995	Full-time staff			Part-time staff		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Senior Research Officer (R)	44	7	51	1	0	1
Research Officer (R)	6	1	7	0	0	0
Chief Typing Manager	0	16	16	0	0	0
Typing Manager	0	160	160	0	0	0
[illegible]or Personal Secretary	0	91	91	0	0	0
Pers[illegible]cretary	3	800	803	0	23	23
Typist	7	2,635	2,642	0	600	600
Senior Scientific Officer	1,659	166	1,825	23	25	48
Higher Scientific Officer	1,567	261	1,828	4	28	32
Scientific Officer	1,103	255	1,358	1	19	20
Assistant Scientific Officer	460	103	563	2	8	10
Senior Instructional Officer	65	0	65	0	0	0
Higher Instructional Officer	333	2	335	0	0	0
Instructional Officer I	1,072	9	1,081	1	0	1
Instructional Officer II	168	5	173	1	1	2
Catering Manager 3	3	0	3	0	0	0
Chef 1/Chief Cook 1	17	1	18	0	0	0
Chef 2/Chief Cook 2	21	2	23	0	0	0
Museum Technician Grade 2	2	0	2	0	0	0
Museum Technician Grade 3	1	1	2	0	0	0
Museum Support Grade 1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Museum Support Grade 2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Museum Support Grade 3	22	0	22	0	0	0
Museum Support Grade 4	3	0	3	0	0	0
Museum Support Grade 5	5	0	5	1	0	1
Senior Photographic Officer	6	0	6	0	0	0
Higher Photographic Officer	37	1	38	0	0	0
Photographic Officer	126	8	134	0	1	1
Process & Supervisory Group Grade A	11	0	11	0	0	0
Process & Supervisory Group Grade B	35	0	35	0	0	0
Process & Supervisory Group Grade C	116	0	116	0	0	0
Process & Supervisory Group Grade D	303	11	314	0	2	2
Process & Supervisory Group Grade E	120	8	128	0	0	0
Senior Psychologist	9	16	25	0	0	0
Higher Psychologist	4	7	11	0	0	0
Stores Officer Grade A	17	0	17	0	0	0
Stores Officer Grade B	131	2	133	1	0	0
Stores Officer Grade C	326	9	335	0	0	0
Stores Officer Grade D	653	61	714	0	1	1
Support Manager 1	2	2	4	0	0	0
Support Manager 2	17	17	34	0	0	0
Support Manager 3	72	101	173	0	0	0
Support Grade Band 1	279	699	978	3	47	50
Support Grade Band 2	435	411	846	5	50	55
Senior Telecommunications Technical Officer	48	0	48	0	0	0
Higher Telecommunication Technical Officer	149	1	150	0	0	0
Telecommunications Technical Officer	338	1	339	4	1	5
Assistant Telecommunications Technical Officer	429	15	444	0	1	1
Trainee Telecommunications Technical Officer	17	1	18	0	0	0
Trainee Telecommunications Technical Officer	1	0	1	0	0	0
Communications Officer I	18	1	19	0	0	0
Communications Officer II	38	9	47	0	0	0
Communications Officer III	93	28	121	0	0	0
Communications Officer IV	234	100	334	1	4	5
Total staff in open structure and occupational groups	37,915	24,614	62,529	132	2,856	2,988
Total staff in departmental non-industrial grades	13,818	1,522	15,340	74	110	184
Industrial staff	30,230	5,266	35,496	126	1,290	1,416
Total non-industrial and industrial staff	81,963	31,402	113,365	332	4,256	4,588

Anti-personnel Mines

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the oral answer of 4 July to the hon. Member for Blaby, *Official Report*, column 137, (1) when the Government announced a policy of testing to ensure the procurement of additional anti-personnel land mines is safe, tested and reliable; [35453]

(2) what research his Department intends to carry out to ensure that self-destruct anti-personnel land mines that his Department intends to procure are safe, tested and reliable; and how he intends to ensure that present stocks are safe, tested and reliable. [35452]

Mr. Arbuthnot: All equipment procured for use by Her Majesty's armed forces is subject to testing to ensure that it is safe, reliable and fit for purpose. If we procure anti-personnel mines in the future these would be subject

to such tests to ensure that they comply with out requirements for safety and reliability at that time. Stocks of all types of in-service ammunition, including mines, are tested regularly to assess their continued safety and suitability for service. No stocks of self-destruct anti-personnel mines are currently held by my Department.

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the oral answer of 4 July to the hon. Member for Blaby, *Official Report*, column *137*, (1) what steps he has taken to consider the military usefulness of anti-personnel land mines; [35451]

(2) pursuant to his oral answer of 6 June to the hon. Member for Islwyn, *Official Report*, column *13*, what measures were taken to consider the justifiable military use of some anti-personnel land mines; and if he will list the recipient and nature of Government spending on mine-clearance work. [35470]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The need for anti-personnel land mines is kept under review. Such reviews include investigation of possible alternative ways of carrying out the important defensive role which is currently fulfilled by anti-personnel land mines. Recent operational analysis has not identified any weapon system which could act as an effective alternative to anti-personnel land mines.

Government support towards the humanitarian clearance of land mines is undertaken through the Overseas Development Administration.

Child Care

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spends on *(a)* child care provision for under-fives and *(b)* out-of-school provision for over-fives, either directly, excluding provision for departmental staff, or indirectly through resources made available to local authorities or other organisations; what form of provision is provided; and how many full-time and part-time places are provided. [35450]

Mr. Soames: Excluding provision made for staff and service personnel, my Department has no responsibility for meeting costs of child care either directly or indirectly.

Stealth Fixed-wing Aircraft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on plans for the development of a stealth fixed-wing aircraft. [35642]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Our plans for future combat aircraft and associated technologies are kept under constant review. Following the recently approved mid-life update, the Tornado GR4 aircraft will not need replacing until well into the next century.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to buy additional Chinook helicopters for special forces use. [35637]

Mr. Arbuthnot: It is our policy not to discuss requirements for special forces use.

Hawk Aircraft

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on plans for replacement of the RAF's Hawk T1 and T1A aircraft. [35640]

Mr. Arbuthnot: We are assessing a number of options for the Hawk fleet including extending the life of the aircraft or purchase or lease of a replacement in due course. This work will take some time.

Market Testing

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, c. *272*, what is the value of *(a)* those activities subject to market testing that included a bid from the respective in-house organisation and *(b)* those activities where an in-house bid was not allowed. [35027]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The total value of activities which have been subject to market testing that included a bid from the respective in-house organisation in the last three reporting periods, covering 1 April 1992 to 31 March 1995, was £80 million. The total value of activities where an in-house bid was not allowed, that is, where the activity was strategically contracted out, in the same period, was £409 million. This latter figure includes AWE contractorisation valued at £275 million.

Mr. Fatchett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, c. *272*, if he will *(a)* name the organisations awarded contracts to carry out the activities where an in-house bid was not allowed and *(b)* express as a percentage of the total number of activities market tested the number of activities where an in-house bid has not been allowed; and if he will make a statement. [35026]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The organisations awarded contracts to carry out the activities where an in-house bid was not allowed, that is, where the activity was strategically contracted out, in the last three reporting periods, are listed in the table. This is 39 per cent. of the total number of activities completed under the competing for quality process within the same periods.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—ACTIVITIES STRATEGICALLY CONTRACTED OUT

1992–93

Gardening, Royal Marine School of Music, Deal—Oaklands plc

Harrier Aircraft Service Support, H.M.S. HERON—Hunting A/C Ltd.

Helicopter Maintenance and Engineering Support, H.M.S. OSPREY, H.M.S. HERON and H.M.S. SEAHAWK—Hunting A/C Ltd.

Simulator Helicopter Control Operations, H.M.S. OSPREY—Hunting A/C Ltd.

Bielefeld bakery—NAAFI

Works Services, H.M.S. SEAHAWK—PSA Building Management

Works Services, H.M.S. DOLPHIN—PSA Building Management

Central Engineer Resources, Plant Hire, Long Marston—various local contractors

Food distribution in BAOR—NAAFI

Food distribution in rear combat zone (BAOR)—NAAFI

Line of Communications—Freight Service, (Low Countries)—DEPAIRE
Engineering and Supply (multi-activity contract), RAF Scampton—Hunting A/C Ltd.
RAF/RN Elementary Flying Training Topcliffe—Hunting A/C Ltd.
Domestic Services, MOD Police, Wethersfield—Gardner Merchant
Works Services Maintenance, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Falkland Islands, Belize—Turner (FM) Ltd./Balfour Beatty/ACO
Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston—Hunting Brae Ltd.
Combat Systems Information Management Team—EASAMS Ltd.
Guarding, Abbey Wood—CHUBB Wardens Ltd.
Relocation Reconnaissance Visits, Bristol—Peter Carol Executive Coaches
1993–94
Tri Service food study—NAAFI
Verbatim Court Recorders, Salisbury—Harry Counsell and Co
Catering strategy study, UK Land Forces—various contractors across a range of sites
Air Weapons Range, Rosehearty—Assessment Services Ltd.
Electronic Warfare training tasks, 360 Sqn, RAF Wyton—FR Aviation Ltd.
Government Pipeline and Storage System, (Operation and Maintenance)—Simon Storage Group/SERCO Gulf Engineering/Unipen
Parachute Transport Flight, RAF Hullavington—Hallett Silbermann
Station Engineering Management Aid, (Maintenance Analysis and Computing Division), RAF Swanton Morley—Bull Information Systems Ltd.
Furniture repair, British Forces Hong Kong—Wing Cheung and Co Ltd.
School bus service, British Forces Hong Kong—Hoi Tai Tours Ltd.
Support Services, Akrotiri, Cyprus—Compass Catering Service (Cyprus) Ltd.
Data entry, Met Office, Bracknell—Alpha Numeric
1994–95
Wireless Stations (Operation and Maintenance), Inskip and Crimond—SERCO Services Ltd.
Freight Service, Germany—TNT Express Holding GmbH
Mobile Civilian Artisan Groups, Germany—Procurement of services as and when required
Support for Parachute Training—Hunting Aviation Ltd.
The Queen's Flight, (engineering support) RAF Northolt—FLS Aerospace (Lovaux) Ltd.
Repair of Defence Accommodation Stores, RAF Quedgeley—HiFburb Ltd./Thackers Ltd./Gordons of Hemingford
Curtain manufactures, British Forces Hong Kong—FCO Procurement Unit
Food supply, British Forces Hong Kong—various contractors
Support Services, British Forces Hong Kong—SERCO/Gardner Merchant

Overseas Trips

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials, to public funds for each year since 1992. [32262]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer Monday 10 July 1995]:* During the period in question, Ministers in my Department have carried out the following overseas visits:

Secretary of State for Defence

Date	*Destination*	*Purpose*	*Aircraft type*
Financial year 1993–94			
April			
20 to 23	USA	To represent Her Majesty's Government at opening of Holocaust Museum, and to have bilateral talks	Civil
May			
16 to 21	Far East (Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore)	Bilaterals	RAF
25	Belgium (Brussels)	NATO Ministerial Meeting	RAF
August			
2 to 4	Bosnia/Croatia, Italy	To visit British Forces in Bosnia nad Croatia, and for bilateral talks in Croatia and Italy	RAF
September			
19 to 24	CIS (Russia and Ukraine)	Bilaterals	RAF
October			
20 to 21	Germany (Travemunde)	NATO Ministerial meeting	
22	Germany (Bielefeld)	To visit British Forces	RAF
23 to 24	Germany (Bonn)	To participate in Bertelsmann Forum	
24 to 26	France	Bilateral	
November			
21 to 22	Austria (Vienna)	Anglo-German Summit	RAF
25	Germany (Bonn)	NATO Ministerial	RAF
December			
8 to 9	Belgium (Brussels)	NATO Ministerial	RAF
January			
5 to 10	Far East Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, (Bahrain)	Bilateral discussions	RAF
February			
4	Germany (Laarbruch, Bruggen)	To visit British Forces	RAF
5	Germany	Conference on Security Policy	RAF
6 to 7	Italy/Former Yugoslavia	To visit British Forces	RAF
10 to 11	Sweden	Bilateral	RAF
19 to 20	Italy	Visit British Forces	RAF
March			
17 to 18	Former Yugoslavia	Visit to British Forces	RAF
22	Norway	Engagement with the King of Norway	RAF
23	Netherlands	Bilateral	RAF

Secretary of State for Defence

Date	Destination	Purpose	Aircraft type
FINANCIAL YEAR 1994–95			
April			
1 to 5	Nepal	To visit British Forces	RAF
12 to 15	USA	Bilateral	Civil
May			
5 to 8	Bermuda	To visit British Forces	RAF
9	Luxembourg	WEU Ministerial	RAF
23 to 25	Belgium (Brussels)	NATO Ministerial meeting	RAF
26	USA	Witness missile firing	RAF
27 to 28	Belize	To visit British Forces	RAF
June			
2 to 3	Switzerland	Bilateral	RAF
6	France	D Day	RAF
September			
8	Germany	Berlin commemorations	RAF
11	Denmark	Bilateral	RAF
28 to 30	Spain	NATO Ministerial	RAF
October			
2 to 5	Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)	Bilateral	RAF
20 to 24	Israel	Bilateral	RAF
24 to 25	Jordan/Kuwait	Bilateral	RAF
28	Germany	To attend BAOR drawdown parade	RAF
30 to 1 November	USA	Bilateral	RAF
November			
18	France	Summit	RAF
December			
5 to 6	Former Yugoslavia	Visit to British Forces	RAF
13 to 14	Belgium (Brussels)	NATO Ministerial	RAF
January			
16 to 18	Middle East (Saudi Arabia Abu Dhabi, Dubai)	Bilateral talks	RAF
February			
3	Germany	Visit German Forces	RAF
4 to 5	Germany (Munich)	Security Policy Conference	RAF
12 to 15	Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia	Bilateral talks	RAF
March			
2 to 5	USA	Quadrilateral meeting	Civil
FINANCIAL YEAR 1995–96			
April			
7 to 13	Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe	Bilaterals	RAF—£133,404
28 to 30	Germany	Ditchley Foundation Conference	RAF—£6,796
May			
14 to 15	Portugal	WEU Ministerial	RAF—£4,970
June			
3	France	Ministerial meeting	RAF—£3,271
8 to 9	Brussels	NATO Ministerial meeting	RAF—£2,782
12 to 13	Sweden and Finland	Bilateral	RAF—£5,594
19 to 21	USA	Bilateral and WEU Conference	Civil

Minister for the Armed Forces

Date	Destination	Purpose	Aircraft type
FINANCIAL YEAR 1993–94			
5-9 April	Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria and Slovakia	Bilaterals	RAF
13–15 May	Germany	Visit British Forces	RAF
19 May	Rome	WEU Ministerial meeting	Civil
26 July	Luxembourg	WEU Ministerial meeting	RAF
28–30 July	Germany	Visit British Forces	RAF
13–16 September	Italy, Bosnia and Croatia	Visit British Forces	RAF
20–29 September	Belize, USA and Brazil	Visit British Forces, Prime Minister and members of Belizean government, meetings with members of the US administration	Civil
12–14 October	Hungary	Bilaterals	RAF
15–18 November	Cyprus, Gibraltar, Sardinia	Meet British Forces and Chief Minister, Gibraltar	RAF
FINANCIAL YEAR 1994–95			
23 February	Brussels	Visit SHAPE Headquarters	RAF
13–15 June	Bosnia	Visit British Forces	RAF
30 June–1 July	Norway	HQ AFNORTH closure ceremony	RAF
19 August	Brussels	Represent UK at Manfred Wörner's funeral	RAF
1 September	Germany	Visit British Forces	RAF
4–8 September	Oman	Bilaterals	Civil
26–28 September	Bosnia	Visit British Forces	RAF
1–7 October	Hong Kong Brunei	Visit British troops and Bilaterals	Civil
7-10 November	Cyprus Gibraltar	Visit British troops	RAF
5 December	Germany	Bilaterals	RAF
3–6 January	Bahrain	Anglo Bahrain Defence Committee and Bilaterals	Civil
25 January	Furstenfoldbruck, Germany	British/German Peacekeeping seminar	RAF
28–29 February	Norway	Visit British Forces on NATO Exercise	RAF
15 March	Germany	Visit British Forces	RAF

Minister for the Armed Forces

Date	Destination	Purpose	Aircraft type
FINANCIAL YEAR 1995–96			
21–25 April	Bosnia/Turkey	Visit UK troops and represent the UK government at Gallipoli commemorations	RAF—£26,973
2–3 May	Hamburg, Germany	Attend VE commemorations	RAF

The RAF cost of this visit was borne by The Prince of Wales, who was accompanied by the Minister for the Armed Forces.

Minister of State for Defence Procurement

Date	Destination	Purpose	Aircraft type
FINANCIAL YEAR *1993–94*			
5 April	Germany	Bilateral talks	RAF
16–18 April	Oman	Promoting defence sales	Civil
28 June	Netherlands	Promoting defence sales	RAF
16 September	Poland	To accompany HRH the Duke of Edinburgh	RAF
8–10 October	Kuwait	Promoting defence sales	Civil
6–7 November	Dubai	Promoting defence sales	Civil
18 November	Germany	Promoting defence sales	RAF
15–17 December	Saudi Arabia	Promoting defence sales	Civil
20–22 December	Bosnia	Visiting British troops	RAF
6–9 January	Oman	Promoting defence sales	Civil
28–31 January	Riyadh	Promoting defence sales	Civil
FINANCIAL YEAR 1994–95			
26–29 April	USA	Bilateral talks	Civil
12 September	Germany	Bilateral talks	RAF
18–21 September	Far East	Five power defence arrangements ministerial meeting	Civil
27–29 September	USA	Bilateral talks	Civil
22–23 October	UAE	Bilateral talks and promoting defence sales	Civil
2 February	France	Bilateral talks	Civil
5–6 February	Germany	Bilateral talks	RAF
17–20 March	UAE	Bilateral talks and promoting defence sales	Civil
23 March	France	Bilateral talks	RAF
FINANCIAL YEAR 1995–96			
21–23 April	Kuwait	Promoting defence sales	Civil

Minister of State for Defence Procurement

Date	Destination	Purpose	Aircraft type
27 April	France	Bilateral talks	RAF—£1,807
19 May	Germany	Bilateral talks	RAF—£2,152
12 June	France	Visit to Paris air show and bilateral talks	RAF—£1,430

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence

Date	Destination	Purpose	Aircraft type
FINANCIAL YEAR 1993–94			
20 April	RAF Bruggen	Disbandment of RAF Germany	RAF
23 April	Germany	Meet Federation of Army Wives BAOR	Civil
12 May	Bielefield, Germany	Visit ACE Rapid Reaction Corps	Civil
24 June	Germany	Disbanding of the Northern Army Group and 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force	RAF
14–17 September	Turkey	Defence Sales visit to IDEF	Civil
29 September	Bielesfeld, Germany	Federation of Army Wives Conference	RAF
21–23 October	Albania	Bilateral	RAF
1–3 December	Russia	125th Anniversary of St. Petersburgh Declaration followed by a visit to Minsk	RAF
6–9 December	Malaysia	Defence sales visit to LIMA 93	Civil
13 December	Normandy	Looking at sites for D Day Celebrations	RAF
19 January	Grafenwoker, Germany	View Combined Arms Tactical Trainer	RAF
20–22 February	Singapore	Bilateral	Civil
28–30 March	Bosnia	Visit British troops	RAF
FINANCIAL YEAR 1994–95			
19–20 April	Malaysia	Bilateral	Civil
6 June	Normandy	D Day	RAF
29 June	Sennelager, Germany	British Forces Germany Environmental Day	RAF
26–27 August	Slovakia	50th Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising	RAF
3–7 October	Greece and Slovenia	Defendory 94 and Bilateral	Civil to Athens then RAF
19 October	Herford, Germany	Federation of Army Wives Conference	RAF
7–11 November	Turkey	Bilateral	Civil

Total Ministerial expenditure on commercial foreign air travel for 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 to date is as follows:

Financial year	*Expenditure £*
1993–94	73,767
1994–95	72,455
1995–96 to date	5,660

Before April 1995 the cost of RAF flights was not separately identified and, together with the numbers of officials, could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

On visits of this kind, accommodation is normally provided by Her Majesty's Ambassador, Higher Commissioner, other Government representative, or by the hosts.

S6 Respirator

Mr. Livingstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report*, column *276*, who was in control of the user acceptability trials with the S6 respirator; and where these trials were carried out. [35622]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer Tuesday 18 July 1995]:* The S6 respirator which preceded the current S10, was brought into service about 30 years ago. Remaining records relating to this period are held in archives and to establish whether they contain information concerning user trials and acceptance would incur disproportionate costs. It is known that a study conducted in 1957 by the Army operational research group of the Department of the Scientific Adviser to the Army Council recommended the acceptance of the S6 concept.

Trafalgar Square Rally

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department sent observers to the rally in Trafalgar square on 16 July, marking the 50th anniversary of the first atomic bomb test in New Mexico. [36234]

Mr. Arbuthnot: No.

Nuclear Weapons Research

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what has been the cost in each year since 1979 of sending scientists and departmental officials to United States nuclear weapons research laboratories and production facilities under the provisions of the 1958 United States—United Kingdom mutual defence agreement on atomic energy matters. [36228]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Records are not kept in a manner which allows this information to be provided.

Female Employees

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the number and percentages of these staff that are women, in his Department and for each of its executive agencies for each year since.1985. [35687]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The information is not available in the form requested, but details for each year from 1985 to 1994, by grade and gender for the Department as a whole, including its executive agencies, can be found in table 5 of "Civil Service Statistics", a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House. Details for 1995 will be published later this year.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35669]

Mr. Arbuthnot: My Department is committed to equality of opportunity for all its employees, and the vigorous application of our equal opportunities policy in such areas as recruitment, career development and promotion has resulted in some progress in promoting women into senior positions.

A range of measures aimed at improving the position is in place, and plans to develop these further and to introduce new initiatives are included in an annual action plan.

Separate action plans are produced by the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency and the Meterological Office.

Arms Export Policy

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes have been made to arms export policy in the last five years. [17527]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer Friday 31 March 1995]:* It remains Government policy to support the sale of British defence equipment overseas wherever this is compatible with our political, strategic and security interests, and does not conflict with our international obligations.

Longbow Radar

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the total cost of the longbow radars to be fitted to the Army's attack helicopter. [35746]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The cost of longbow radars to be fitted to the Army's attack helicopter is a matter of commercial confidentiality between MOD and the prime contractor.

TRACER Reconnaissance Vehicle

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which anti-tank missiles his Department are assessing in relation to the TRACER vehicle requirement; and if he will make a statement. [35745]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The next planned stage of the feasibility study into the TRACER reconnaissance vehicle requirement will include further analysis of all the options for missiles to meet the identified threat. In framing the requirement to be met, the Department has not identified specific missile type for consideration.

Surplus Military Equipment

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Minister in his Department is responsible for the disposal of surplus military equipment. [35747]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The Minister of State for Defence Procurement is responsible for the disposal of surplus military equipment.

Nuclear Test Programme

Dr. David Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the National Radiological Protection Board study's analysis of leukaemia and multiple myeloma; and if he will make a statement. [31773]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer Friday 30 June 1995]:* The National Radiological Protection Board analysis indicated no evidence to suggest that leukaemia, multiple myeloma or any other cancer was caused by ionising radiation from the nuclear test programme.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department decided that a 10-year continuation of the National Radiological Protection Board study was no longer to be conducted. [31772]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer Friday 30 June 1995]:* A follow-up to the original NRPB study has already been conducted and its results were published in December 1993. We have no plans to sponsor any further studies.

Dr. Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from whom his Department has received requests that a third survey for the National Radiological Protection Board study be conducted; what response he gave; and what plans he has for such a survey. [31771]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer Friday 30 June 1995]:* The National Radiological Protection Board study concluded that there has been no overall excess of death or malignant disease among British nuelear test participants. We therefore have no plans to sponsor any further studies.

Textile Products

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the value of contracts for the supply of textile products in 1995–96 financial year; how many contracts and to what value have already been let; and what proportion of this work was awarded to Remploy. [20392]

Mr. Arbuthnot *[holding answer Friday 28 April 1995]:* The value of contracts for the supply of textile products for delivery in financial year 1995–96 is expected to be £114.7 million, VAT inclusive. A total of 472 contracts are currently in place with expected expenditure in financial year 1995–96 of £42.9 million.

Remploy currently has 26 contracts which include a total expected spend of £11.1 million in financial year 1995–96.

Fuel Servicing Trucks

Mr. Colvin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what military requirements the 17 fuel servicing trucks referred to in tender No SM21ARAF4330 are required; what consideration he has given to leasing or contract hiring of such vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [34754]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The 17 fuel servicing trucks are dual purpose refueller/defuellers and are required to support on-base operations: the most common use is for small aircraft and helicopters. The leasing of equipment is routinely considered as part of the replacedment decision. In general however, there is no commercial equipment available which meets the specific military requirements and the leasing or contract hiring of purpose-built fuel servicing trucks has been shown to be uneconomic. As the specialist nature of these vehicles rule out the leasing of commercially available types, and the high cost of refurbishment of existing vehicles precludes that option, purchase was assessed to be the most economic means of meeting this operational requirement.

Apache Helicopters

Mr. Mans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the in-service date for the first Apache helicopters his Department proposes to purchase for use by the British Army. [36094]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Subject to the negotiation of satisfactory contract terms, we expect Apache to enter service around the end of this decade.

Mr. Mans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department will take to ascertain that the additional defence work for British industry provided by Westland's US Sub-contractors following the decision to purchase Apache attack helicopters will be directly the result of that decision. [36096]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Westland's US sub-contractors have entered into formal industrial participation agreements with the United Kingdom MOD regarding the amount of new work that they will place in the UK as a result of the selection of Apache. The placement of this work will be closely monitored using the MODs standard procedures.

Mr. Mans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the unit cost of the Apache helicopter his Department proposes to purchase for the British Army compares with the unit cost of a Challenger II tank at present on order for the British Army. [36082]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The unit production cost of each of the equipments mentioned is information treated as a matter of commercial confidentiality between MOD and its suppliers and cannot therefore be published. This is a long-standing convention of Government.

Mr. Mans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the weight and power output of the version of the Rolls-Royce RTM 322 engine which his Department has specified to be fitted to the Apache helicopter; and what is the weight and power output of the T700 engine at present fitted to this helicopter. [36088]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The take-off ratings of the RTM 322 T701C engines are 2113 shaft horse power and 1890 shaft horse power respectively and the wet weights are 261.8

kg and 215.9 kg respectively. Although this information formed part of the Westland bid, it is also in the public domain. The current US Army Apache has a lower power variant of the T700 engine.

Mr. Mans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the unit cost of the 67 Apache helicopters which his Department proposes to purchase for use by the British Army. [36093]

Mr. Arbuthnot: The unit cost of Apache helicopters is a matter of commercial confidentiality between MOD and its prime contractor and cannot therefore be published.

Mr. Mans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the first Apache helicopter is expected to fly powered by the Rolls-Royce RTM 322 engine. [36095]

Mr. Arbuthnot: Subject to the negotiation of satisfactory contract terms, test flying of the first Apache helicopter powered by Rolls-Royce/Turbomeca RTM 322 engines is expected to begin at the end of 1997.

Mr. Mans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much greater the radar signature is of the Apache helicopter his Department proposes to purchase for the British Army, than the Eurocopter Tiger helicopter. [36089]

Mr. Arbuthnot: All technical information provided to MOD for the attack helicopter competition by bidders or through the host Governments is a matter of commercial confidentiality or national security and cannot therefore be published.

Mr. Mans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the unit cost of the Apache helicopter his Department proposes to purchase for the British Army compares with the unit cost of *(a)* the Eurocopter Tiger *(b)* the GEC/Bell Cobra-Venom. [36083]

Mr. Arbuthnot: All costing information provided to MOD by bidders in the attack helicopter competition is a matter of commercial confidentiality and cannot therefore be published.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Life Sentence Review Board

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the cases which have been considered this year by the Life Sentence Review Board, indicating the background from which the offender came, how long he or she had served and what decision was taken. [33302]

Sir John Wheeler: The Life Sentence Review Board's advice to the Secretary of State is confidential.

During 1995 the Life Sentence Review Board has considered 24 cases. These figures include cases which were being considered for the first time at the 10-year stage of sentence, or earlier where appropriate, as well as a number of cases which had previously been considered by the review board and deferred for further consideration.

The Secretary of State has decided during 1995 that 14 life sentence prisoners are suitable for release on licence. Some of these cases were considered by the review board in the latter half of 1994, although the decisions of the Secretary of State, following consultation with the judiciary were taken in 1995.

National Nature Reserves

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals his Department has for the future management and conservation of national nature reserves in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [34270]

Mr. Moss: National nature reserves will continue to be managed to maintain or enhance their natural interest.

In light of the establishment of a next steps agency for the Environment on 1 April 1996, the Department will explore the possibility of the management of those reserves which it owns or leases, being transferred to other competent organisations. This would be within the framework of a defined conservation regime.

Prison Officer's

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what have been the rates of absenteeism by prison officers in each of Northern Ireland's prisons over the past five years; what have been the causes; and what are the proposed remedies. [34365]

Sir John Wheeler: Responsibility for the subject of the question has been delegated to the Northern Ireland Prison Service under its chief executive, Mr. Alan Shannon. He will be writing to the hon. Member in due course.

Education Expenditure

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what expenditure was *(a)* excluding; and *(b)* including salary costs on (i) primary schools; (ii) secondary schools; and (iii) colleges of further education in both real and constant terms in each year since 1979. [34029]

Mr. Ancram: The information requested is set out in the tables for years 1979–80 to 1992–93, which is the latest year for which details are available.

£ thousand

	Pay and non-pay expenditure	*At 1992–93 prices*	*Non-pay expenditure*	*At 1992–93 prices*
Primary schools				
1979–80	77,848	185,453	12,996	30,960
1980–81	96,844	194,984	14,995	30,191
1981–82	107,728	197,767	16,819	30,876
1982–83	112,571	192,919	17,337	29,711
1983–84	116,789	191,276	17,176	28,131
1984–85	122,802	191,501	18,093	28,215
1985–86	132,147	195,364	19,263	28,478
1986–87	149,596	214,684	25,789	37,010
1987–88	163,853	223,257	22,581	30,768
1988–89	182,094	232,551	24,328	33,148
1989–90	203,660	243,112	30,347	36,226
1990–91	224,444	248,047	31,803	35,147
1991–92	243,328	253,018	35,621	37,040
1992–93	267,558	267,558	41,180	41,180
Secondary schools				
1979–80	97,921	233,271	17,473	41,625
1980–81	123,134	247,916	20,961	42,203
1981–82	140,316	257,592	23,799	43,690

£ thousand

	Pay and non-pay expenditure	At 1992–93 prices	Non-pay expenditure	At 1992–93 prices
1982–83	149,797	256,714	25,332	43,413
1983–84	158,569	259,703	25,875	42,378
1984–85	171,091	266,805	30,964	48,286
1985–86	180,747	267,214	30,480	45,061
1986–87	201,330	288,927	37,603	53,964
1987–88	214,279	291,965	35,633	48,552
1988–89	231,756	295,974	37,975	48,498
1989–90	250,888	299,488	42,974	51,299
1990–91	269,086	297,384	45,962	50,795
1991–92	300,279	312,237	47,704	49,604
1992–93	325,757	325,757	50,600	50,600

Notes:

1. Pupils attending preparatory departments of grammar schools included.

2. In the 1992–93 financial year there were 189,995 full-time equivalent pupils at primary schools, 3,659 at preparatory departments in grammar schools and 144,773 at secondary schools.

	Pay and non-pay expenditure	At 1992–93 prices	Non-pay expenditure	At 1992–93 prices
Colleges of further education				
1979–80	21,415	51,016	3,172	7,556
1980–81	27,816	56,004	3,968	7,989
1981–82	31,714	58,220	4,216	7,740
1982–83	35,964	61,633	4,797	8,221
1983–84	40,523	66,368	5,750	9,417
1984–85	43,746	68,219	6,095	9,505
1985–86	46,823	69,223	6,297	9,309
1986–87	50,878	73,015	6,848	9,828
1987–88	55,248	75,278	6,980	9,511
1988–89	62,475	79,786	7,288	9,307
1989–90	64,714	77,250	7,788	9,297
1990–91	81,442	90,007	6,964	7,696
1991–92	87,208	90,681	6,369	6,623
1992–93	70,939	70,939	7,147	7,147

Notes:

1. FE mandatory and discretionary awards have been excluded.

2. Youth training programme expenditure included up to 1991–92, from 1992–93 the Department of Economic Development undertook responsbility for this programme.

EU Habitats Directive

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on his Department's policy regarding compliance with the EU habitats directive with particular reference to the designation of special areas of conservation. [34269]

Mr. Moss: The Government welcomed the adoption of the EU habitats directive in May 1992 and is fully committed to its implementation. Sites identified as meeting the criteria for designation as special areas of conservation are selected on a UK basis by the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the Countryside Council for Wales, co-ordinated through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. On 31 March 1995 the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Environment initiated a public consultation on these sites, and as a result of the responses received a first tranche of 137 was forwarded to the European Commission on 20 June 1995. There were 14 sites in Northern Ireland in this tranche.

Integrated Schools

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* schools have integrated status and *(b)* pupils attend such schools; what is their (i) socio-economic, (ii) religious background (iii) geographical distribution; and what further proposals he has for such schools. [34373]

Mr. Ancram: From September 1995 there will be 28 integrated schools in Northern Ireland:

Primary

Acorn, Carrickfergus

All Children, Newcastle

Braidise, Ballymena

Bridge, Banbridge

Carhill, Coleraine

Corran, Larne

Cranmore, Belfast

Enniskillen

Forge, Belfast

Hazelwood, Newtownabbey

Lough View, Belfast

Milstrand, Portrush

Oakgrove, Londonderry

Omagh

Primary

Portadown

Saints and Scholars, Armagh

Windmill, Dungannon

Cedar, Crows

Portaferry

Secondary

Bronwlow College, Craigavon

Erne College, Enniskillen

Hazelwood College, Belfast

Lagan College, Belfast

Oakgrove College, Londonderry

Shimna College, Newcastle

Armagh/South Tyrone College, Dungannon

Drumrah College, Omagh

New Bridge College, Loughbrickland

The total enrolment of these schools is estimated to be just over 5,000 and the religious balance to be 48 per cent. Roman Catholic, 38 per cent. Protestant, 8 per cent. other Christian denominations, 1 per cent. non-Christian and 5 per cent. unattributed. Detailed information in the socio-economic background of pupils is not available.

I expect to receive a number of proposals both for new integrated schools and for the transformation of existing schools to integrated status.

Health Centre, Armagh

Mr. John D. Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals there are to increase facilities at the health centre, Armagh; how many additional parking spaces will be provided; if there will be vehicular access direct from Dobbin street; and what is the estimated cost of these proposals. [34334]

Mr. Moss: The Southern Health and Social Services Board has plans to develop a new primary care services centre at the Dobbin lane site in Armagh to bring together all the general medical practice and community health and personal social services in the locality. The board has just recently set up project board to take forward the proposal. Information is therefore not yet available about parking facilities, vehicular access and estimated cost. A detailed business case is to be prepared for the proposed centre and presented to all interested parties.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what changes in the level of staffing occurred in the Department of Finance and Personnel in 1994–95; and what factors led to these changes. [35000]

Sir John Wheeler: During 1994–95, the level of staffing in the Department of Finance and Personnel reduced by 72 of which 21 were casual appointments. The principal factor leading to this reduction was the need to ensure that the Department provided its services in the most efficient and effective manner consistent with its running cost provision.

Compensation Claims

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the cost of claims for *(a)* damage caused by terrorists and *(b)* compensation for disturbance and so on by the security forces in each of the last four years; and what is the cost of claims approved so far during the current year. [34774]

Sir John Wheeler: Responsibility for the subject in question has been delegated to the Compensation Agency under its chief executive, Mr. Denis Stanley. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from D. A. Stanley to Mr. John Home Robertson, dated 18 July 1995:

The Minister of State, Sir John Wheeler, has asked me to reply, on behalf of the Compensation Agency, to your recent Question regarding claims for compensation for criminal damage caused by terrorists and for compensation paid as a result of disturbance related to the activities of the security forces in each of the last four years and so far during the current year.

Compensation paid under Criminal Damage Legislation

£ million

Year	*Criminal damage total expenditure*	*Terrorist related expenditure*
1991–92	33.1	32.4 (estimate)
1992–93	75.9	74.2 (estimate)
1993–94	67.9	65.9
1994–95	53.8	52.9
First quarter 1995–96	9.5	9.3 (estimate)

Figures for the amount of compensation which was solely related to criminal damage caused by terrorists are not readily available prior to 1993–94. The figures given for the two prior years are estimates based on percentages in the later years. The figure for terrorist related expenditure in the first quarter of 1995–96 is also an estimate which is subject to confirmation as claims are processed. It must also be noted that as criminal damage compensation is usually paid on a phased basis, consequent upon replacement or rebuilding work, expenditure each year includes compensation for damage which occurred in earlier years.

Compensation paid under emergency provision legislation

£ million

Year	*Emergency provisions total expenditure*
1991–92	1.9
1992–93	2.8
1993–94	2.6
1994–95	1.7
First quarter 1995–96	0.3

The amounts under this heading relate to claims paid by the Compensation Agency under the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1991, mainly in respect of damage resulting from military search operations.

Compensation paid by the Police Authority for Northern Ireland

£ million

Year	*Common law total expenditure*
1991–92	0.3
1992–93	0.3
1993–94	0.3
1994–95	0.3
First quarter 1995–96	0.02

The amounts under this heading relate to payments made by the Police Authority for Northern Ireland in respect of damage incurred during bomb disposal operations, plus other general property claims against the police.

None of the amounts in this letter include payments which the Ministry of Defence might make in Northern Ireland, details of which would have to be sought from the Secretary of State for Defence.

EU Assistance

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on progress with the European special assistance package for Northern Ireland. [35002]

Sir John Wheeler: A draft programme under the European initiative for peace and reconciliation was jointly submitted by the United Kingdom and the Irish authorities on 9 June. Negotiations on the details of the programme are continuing with the European Commission with a view to its early adoption.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the changes in expenditure on superannuation and other allowances in the Department of Finance and Personnel; and if he will make a statement on anticipated future changes in expenditure. [35001]

Sir John Wheeler: Expenditure by the Department of Finance and Personnel on superannuation and other allowances includes expenditure on (i) pensions, lump sums and gratuities and ii) redundancy and early retirement costs to former civil servants and other members of the principal civil service pension scheme (Northern Ireland). Expenditure on item (i) is largely offset by income consisting of contributions from employing organisations—including Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office—and individuals. Expenditure on item (ii) fluctuates in line

with the need of redundancies and, during the financial years 1993–94 and 1994–95, major redundancy programmes were implemented across the Northern Ireland civil service. It is likely that further redundancy schemes will be required in the present and future financial years.

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the prior options study of the Northern Ireland Statistics, Census Office and General Register Office was completed; and what has been the outcome of the study. [36551]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: On 18 January my right hon. Friend the Member for Westminster, North (Sir J. Wheeler) announced that the Statistics, Census Office and General Register Office functions of the Statistics and Social Division of the Department of Finance and Personnel would be subject to a prior options study. That study is now complete and I have decided that the statistics and social division of DFP should become a next steps agency and that preparations for its launch should proceed with a view to agentisation by 1 April 1996.

Alcoholic Drink Production

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the contribution of alcoholic drinks production to the Northern Irish gross domestic product in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [34982]

Sir John Wheeler: There are only a very small number of companies involved in the production of alcoholic drinks in Northern Ireland and information from Government surveys on these companies cannot be released because of confidentiality constraints.

Prisoners (Transfer)

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether there is presently adequate accommodation in Her Majesty's Northern Ireland prisons to facilitate the transfer of prisoners normally resident in Northern Ireland from prisons in Great Britain to complete their sentences in Northern Ireland prisons. [35594]

Sir John Wheeler: Responsibility for the subject of the question has been delegated to the Northern Ireland Prison Service under its chief executive, Mr. Alan Shannon. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from M. A. Mogg to Mr. Roy Beggs, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State has asked the Northern Ireland Prison Service to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the availability of accommodation in Northern Ireland prisons to facilitate the transfer of Northern Ireland residents who are in prison in Great Britain. I am responding on behalf of the Chief Executive.

Information is not available on the total number of Northern Ireland prisoners held in Great Britain and it is not possible therefore to say whether sufficient accommodation would be available if all sought transfers to Northern Ireland.

We are aware of requests from 28 serving prisoners and if all these requests were approved, there would be sufficient accommodation at present for them within the Northern Ireland prison estate.

Ports Privatisation

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what financial support from the European Union the ports of Northern Ireland would become ineligible if they were privatised. [35290]

Mr. Moss: European Union structural funds grants which are currently available to public sector ports in Northern Ireland would continue to be available in the event of privatisation.

Prison Visits

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the annual cost of enabling relatives of Northern Ireland prisoners in Great Britain to travel and visit relations in Great Britain. [35593]

Sir John Wheeler: Responsibility for the subject of the question has been delegated to the Northern Ireland Prison Service under its chief executive, Mr. Alan Shannon. I have asked him to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from M. A. Mogg to Mr. Roy Beggs, dated 18 July 1995:

In the absence of the Chief Executive, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has asked me to reply to the Parliamentary Question you tabled relating to the annual cost of enabling relatives of Northern Ireland prisoners in Great Britain to travel and visit relations in prisons in Great Britain.

The total expenditure on the Assisted Visits Scheme for the 1994/95 financial year was £127,702.22. This included an amount of £17,906.41 administration costs which was payable to the Department of Health and Social Services. I am afraid that it is not possible to extract from this figure the specific costs to which you refer.

I hope this information is helpful.

Breakdown by 4 Boards, Central Services Agency and National Board September 1994

	Number	*WTE*
Administration and clerical staff in Northern Ireland		
National Board	100	95.53
Central services agency	527	496.22
Eastern	4,303	3,846.38
Northern	1,767	1,557.66
Southern	1,220	1,087.65
Western	1,182	1,086.57
Northern Ireland total	9,099	8,170.01
Nursing and midwifery staff in Northern Ireland		
National Board	249	241.86
Eastern	9,626	7,662.31
Northern	2,954	2,509.25
Southern	3,150	2,511.20
Western	2,930	2,473.00
Northern Ireland total	18,909	15,397.62

WTE = Whole Time Equivalent. Number = Headcount.

Arable Area Payments

Mr. Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list by county the number of landowners receiving payments under the arable area payments scheme of *(a)* less than £25,000 *(b)* between

£25,000 and £50,000 *(c)* between £50,000 and £1 million and *(d)* above £1 million, for the latest year for which figures are available. [35362]

Mr. Ancram: The number of landowners receiving payments under the scheme by county for 1994–95 was:

County	*£0–£25,000*	*£25,000–£50,000*	*£50,000–£1 million*	*Over £1 million*
Antrim	641	0	nil	nil
Armagh	230	1	nil	nil
Down	1,081	4	nil	nil
Fermanagh	2	0	nil	nil
Londonderry	666	3	nil	nil
Tyrone	302	0	nil	nil
Total	2,922	8	nil	nil

Child Care

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spends on *(a)* child care provision for under-fives and *(b)* out-of-school provision for the over-fives both directly, excluding provision for departmental staff, and indirectly through resources made available to local authorities and other organisations; what form of provision is provided; and how many full-time and part-time places are provided. [35552]

Mr. Moss: The Department of Health and Social Services directly assists the development of child care for pre-school and school age children by grant-aiding regional voluntary child care organisations in Northern Ireland working in this field. In the current financial year over £249,000 is being provided in this way.

The Department also administers the Early Years Development Fund, which supports day care initiatives for young children, particularly those under five. In 1994–95 the fund allocated over £381,000 to regional local projects.

In 1993–94, the latest year for which the information is available, health and social services boards in Northern Ireland spent £1.4 million on support for local day care projects, either through direct provision, or in support of voluntary and community facilities. In that year, boards also spent £2.2 million on family day centres, but these do not cater exclusively for parents with young children.

Female Employees

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female staff (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35462]

Sir John Wheeler: The numbers of permanent industrial and non-industrial staff on 1 April 1995 on a head-count basis were as follows:

	(a) Male		*(b) Female*	
	(i)	*(ii)*	*(i)*	*(ii)*
Department	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Health and Social Services	639	3	460	55
Social Security Agency	1,654	11	2,878	526
Child Support Agency	297	nil	506	41
Agriculture	1,789	3	957	127
Economic Development	1,255	2	999	135
Education	256	1	261	47
Environment	3,631	12	1,876	250
Finance and Personnel	671	2	572	118
Northern Ireland Office	677	nil	756	107
Police Authority	583	1	1,575	204
Others	24	1	22	nil
Total	11,476	36	10,862	1,610

Notes:
The figures for the Northern Ireland Office include both Northern Ireland Civil Service and Home Civil Service staff.
The figures do not include casual staff, staff on career breaks and Prison personnel.
The figures for the Social Security Agency and the Child Support Agency include staff who are undertaking work on behalf of and who are financed by the Home Civil Service.

The breakdown by grade of non-industrial staff was as follows:

	(a)Male		*(b) Female*	
	(i)	*(ii)*	*(i)*	*(ii)*
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Grade 1	2	nil	nil	nil
Grade 2	8	nil	nil	nil
Grade 3	35	1	nil	nil
Grade 4	6	nil	nil	nil
Grade 5	101	nil	11	nil
Grade 6	23	nil	nil	nil
Grade 7	331	nil	51	8
Deputy Principal	436	nil	143	10
Staff Officer	517	nil	336	36
Officer I	559	4	640	95
Executive Officer II	511	nil	861	105
Administrative Officer	1,016	3	2,248	364
Administrative Assistant	758	nil	2,110	219
Other General Service Grades	977	7	1,790	344
Total General Service Grades	5,280	15	8,190	1,181
Other Grades	6,196	21	2,672	429
Total non-industrials	11,476	36	10,862	1,610
Industrials	3,422	41	51	26
Total Northern Ireland Civil Servants	14,898	77	10,913	1,636

Notes:
No breakdown of industrial staff is available. Figures are for the quarter April - June 1995.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35670]

Sir John Wheeler: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the number and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the number and percentages of these staff that are women, in his Department and for each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [356686]

Sir John Wheeler: The information is not readily available in the detail requested and could be produced only at disproportionate cost. The relevant figures for the Northern Ireland civil service for the years 1985, 1987, 1991 and 1993, inclusive of its executive agencies where appropriate, are contained in the regular series of biannual reports published by the central equal opportunities unit of the Northern Ireland civil service, the first of which was published in 1986 and the latest, containing the 1993 figures in June 1994. Copies of the reports are available in the Library.

Police Boxes

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the location of the remaining in-situ blue police boxes. [35953]

Sir John Wheeler: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Nursery Education

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) if he will make a statement on the basis on which he calculated that his nursery education voucher scheme will cost £8 million in a full year; [35791]

(2) pursuant to his answer of 11 July, *Official Report*, column *519*, what are the present annual costs of a full-time place in a play group or a reception class; [35783]

(3) what will be the maximum cash value of a nursery education voucher in Northern Ireland; [35787]

(4) what plans he has to increase the number of public sector nursery places before 1997; by how many; and in what locations; [35789]

(5) how many children will receive *(a)* one term's nursery education; *(b)* two terms' nursery education; and *(c)* three terms' nursery education as a result of the voucher scheme in 1997; [35790]

(6) how many children in Northern Ireland currently start their primary education before the compulsory school starting age; at what cost to public funds; and how their education and educational funding will be affected by the voucher scheme for nursery education; [35784]

(7) how many children in Northern Ireland currently receive reception class provision; how this is defined; how it is costed; and how current provision will be affected by the nursery voucher scheme; [35786]

(8) how many extra children he calculates will be entitled to receive nursery education through the voucher scheme. [35788]

Mr. Ancram: The figure of £8.3 million is the additional, not the total, cost of the pre-school initiative in Northern Ireland and as such represents the costs of providing vouchers at the appropriate level for those children who would not otherwise attend grant-aided nursery or reception classes.

The maximum cash value of a voucher in Northern Ireland will be £1,100 and I estimate that some 4,300 children will be entitled to a voucher for three terms provision, some 8,700 to a voucher for two terms provision and 6,500 to a voucher for a single term's provision.

There are no children below compulsory school age in primary education, but there are approximately 2,400 reception age pupils in primary schools in Northern Ireland, of whom about half are in reception classes which are classes in primary schools consisting entirely of children below compulsory school age and where the provision made does not differ substantially from that available in nursery schools or classes.

Pupils in reception classes are funded through the normal LMS formulae for schools and the average age-weighted pupil unit for reception age pupils in 1994–95 was £1,235 a year. Vouchers will be capable of being redeemed for reception class provision on the same basis as for other forms of pre-school provision. Costs for playgroup provision are not readily available in the form requested and I will write to the hon. Member.

Currently a total of some 7,700 children are receiving pre-school education in grant-aided nursery schools or reception classes and the voucher scheme will provide resources to enable a further 11,800 children to avail of pre-school provision.

Detailed proposals for the implementation of this initiative in Northern Ireland, including proposals for the expansion of nursery education in the public sector, will be the subject of consultation with the main interest groups and will be announced in due course.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many four-year-olds are currently receiving private sector nursery education; and at what cost to their parents. [35785]

Mr. Moss: There is no private sector nursery education in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to his answer of 11 July, *Official Report*, column *519*, how many playgroups in Northern Ireland have full-time places. [35782]

Mr. Moss: Play groups operate on a sessional basis. Where a play group operates two sessions per day, each session would generally cater for different children. The number of such play groups is not readily available.

Mental Health

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures exist to assess the mental health of people, in relation to personal and public safety, who are detained in prisons or mental hospitals, or voluntarily present in mental hospitals, prior to *(a)* their release on licence at the completion of their sentences and *(b)* their voluntary discharge. [35797]

Mr. Moss: Prisoners with a mental health disorder are assessed by the prison medical service during their sentence and transferred to and detained in hospital where this is considered appropriate. Particularly dangerous offenders can be made subject to restriction orders.

On each occasion a detained or voluntary patient is being considered for leave of absence or discharge from hospital, personal and public safety are factors taken into account. This is a matter for clinical judgment made by the patient's responsible medical officer in consultation with professional colleagues. Patients who are subject to

a restriction order cannot be granted leave of absence or discharged without the approval of the Secretary of State.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proposals he has to amend the Northern Ireland legislation relating to the compulsory detention of dangerously mentally disordered individuals; and what other measures he proposes to ensure public safety in respect of such individuals. [35798]

Mr. Moss: There are no plans at present to amend the Northern Ireland legislation relating to the compulsory detention of mentally disordered people. The Department of Health and Social Services is currently considering comments received on draft guidance on the discharge and continuing care in the community of mentally disordered people who are thought to represent a potential risk to themselves or others.

Postal Votes

Mr. Robert McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the number of postal votes cast at the 1992 general election in each Northern Ireland constituency; and what percentage of the poll that represented. [35802]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman as soon as possible.

Health Board Remuneration

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to his answer of 13 July, *Official Report*, column *767*, if he will provide the information for trust board and health authority members on allowances for 1994–95 as broken down in his answer. [35854]

Mr. Moss: The information requested is disclosed in the annual financial accounts of health and social services boards and health and social services trusts. The information requested for 1994–95 relating to board members of HSS trusts is set out in the table. The financial accounts from which these figures have been extracted are unaudited and therefore may be subject to change.

Updated information requested relating to board members of health and social services boards is not yet available.

Board Members Remuneration—Trusts—1994–95

£ thousand

		Executive Directors						
Health and social services trust	*Non-executive directors*	*Basic salary*	*Performance pay*	*Employers pension contributions*	*Compensation for loss of office*	*Benefits in kind*	*Pensions paid to former directors*	*Total*
Belfast City Hospital	44	285	4	11	0	3	0	347
Down and Lisburn	44	276	11	11	0	5	0	347
Eastern Ambulance	33	112	0	5	0	10	0	160
Greenpark	44	251	0	10	0	7	0	312
Mater Infirmorum Hospital	40	237	0	9	0	0	0	286
North Down and Ards Community	25	174	0	10	0	0	0	209
North and West Belfast Community	44	279	0	10	0	5	0	338
Royal Group of Hospitals	44	222	20	8	0	9	0	303
South and East Belfast Community	44	213	0	9	0	0	0	266
Ulster, North Down and Ards Hospitals	31	273	0	11	0	0	0	315
Craigavon Area Hospital	38	191	5	8	0	3	0	245
Craigavon and Banbridge Community	40	246	0	9	0	0	0	295
Newry and Mourne	42	186	0	7	0	0	0	235
Total	513	2,945	40	118	0	42	0	3,658

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consideration he has given to opening a dedicated ME clinic in Northern Ireland. [35794]

Mr. Moss: There are no proposals to open such a centre at present.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many *(a)* secondary; and *(b)* primary school children have been permanently excluded in each local education authority in each of the last five years and as a proportion of the total school roll; [35844]

(2) how many *(a)* secondary; and *(b)* primary school children have been permanently excluded in each of the last five years; [35847]

(3) how many *(a)* secondary; and *(b)* primary school children who have been permanently excluded have received tuition (i) at home; and (ii) in a pupil referral unit in each of the last five years. [35841]

Mr. Ancram: This information is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Out-patient Appointments

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people, by speciality, have been awaiting initial out-patient appointments with consultants at the Ulster hospital for *(a)* more than one

year and *(b)* more than two years; and if he will give the comparable figure for the Belfast City hospital. [35795]

Mr. Moss: Information held centrally relating to patients waiting for their first outpatient appointment cannot be attributed to individual hospitals. Figures given in the table are trust totals and relate to out-patients who are still waiting for their first out-patient appointment at the end of March 1995.

Speciality	*Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust*		*Ulster, North Down and Ards hospitals Trust*	
	12–23 months	*24 months and over*	*12–23 months*	*24 months and over*
Trauma and Orthopaedics:	130	0	179	171
Rheumatology	4	0	0	0
Oral Surgery	0	0	42	2
Plastic Surgery	0	0	85	62
Cardiology	0	0	6	0
Dermatology	0	0	50	0
Gynaecology	0	0	1	0
ENT	0	0	2	0

Marches

Mr. Robert McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will specify the date of the meeting of the Anglo-Irish Conference when the Government of the Irish Republic first made the proposal that there should be a policy of voluntary re-routing of disputed marches, and the date at which he first concurred with the Chief Constable's policy of seeking the voluntary re-routing of such marches up to the commencing time of the march in question. [35800]

Sir John Wheeler: All decisions about the re-routing of particular parades are matters which fall entirely within the operational responsibilities of the Chief Constable of the RUC. The Irish Government have been so advised on any occasion when they have raised this issue.

Orange Halls

Mr. Robert McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list those Orange halls which have been destroyed or seriously damaged by sectarian arson attacks since 1 January 1969 indicating the name, location, date and county. [35805]

Sir John Wheeler: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman as soon as possible.

Postal Votes

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the postal vote application time limits after an election is called and on the improvements required in the voter identification rules in Northern Ireland. [35803]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman as soon as possible.

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the number of permanent postal vote applications presently granted in each Northern Ireland constituency; and what percentage of the electorate this represents. [35801]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman as soon as possible.

Water Supply, Bangor

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what factors underlie the lack of usable water available to Mrs. Malcolm of 2 Owenroe drive, Bangor; for how long Mrs. Malcolm has not had access to usable water; when the Department of the Environment will rectify the situation; and if Mrs. Malcolm will be compensated. [35793]

Mr. Moss: The Department of the Environment's Water Executive has carried out extensive investigations into the quality of water supplied to the boundary of Mrs. Malcolm's property and found it to be satisfactory. Responsibility for deterioration in the quality of water within the boundary of the property rests with the owner.

Race Relations Agency

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what is the estimated annual cost of the Government's proposal to set up a Northern Ireland Race Relations Agency; what is the cost per head of population, the cost per ethnic minority individual and the equivalent actual costs in these categories in Great Britain; and if he will estimate the cost of extending the existing Race Relations Agency's remit to cover Northern Ireland. [35796]

Sir Patrick Mayhew: On 27 April 1995, I announced the Government's intention to introduce race relations legislation in Northern Ireland by means of an Order in Council. As part of that process, a draft proposal will be published in due course which, among other things, will suggest how that legislation might be administered. The institutional arrangements for enforcing the legislation, including the establishment of a race relations body, are therefore still under consideration.

Growth Challenge Initiative

Ms Mowlam: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what public funding is available to support the Northern Ireland growth challenge initiative for each of the next three years. [34087]

Mr. Ancram *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* My noble Friend will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34610]

Sir John Wheeler *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The total number of staff leaving the Northern Ireland civil service on redundancy terms during the period 12 July 1994 to 11 July 1995 amounted to 524. Of these, 466 were voluntary.

The amount spent on redundancy payments during that period was £12,637,306.79.

Computer Equipment

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34559]

Sir John Wheeler *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* This information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Auditors' Remuneration

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much have *(a)* health authorities and *(b)* trusts spent on auditors' renumeration in each year since 1992, by region. [34165]

Mr. Moss *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* The information is as follows:

1991–92: £109,999

1992–93: £166,091

1993–94: £200,818

1994–95[1]: £42,587

[1]To date

Figures exclude VAT.

The remuneration was paid to the firms by the Department of Health and Social Services without recharge to the boards and trusts.

Private Training Agencies

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what public funds have been used to assist private training agencies to establish themselves in Northern Ireland, and in what circumstances in the last five years. [31427]

Mr. Ancram *[holding answer 30 June 1995]:* My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

WALES

Food Related Industries

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what was the contribution of alcoholic drinks production to the Welsh gross domestic product in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [34981]

Mr. Richards: The available industrial breakdown of Welsh GDP does not separately identify alcoholic drink production.

Museums and Galleries

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will express general Government expenditure in Wales on museums and galleries as a proportion of the corresponding United Kingdom figure; and if he will make a statement. [34962]

Mr. Richards: In 1993–94 general Government expenditure in Wales on museums and galleries was about 5 per cent. of the corresponding United Kingdom figure.

Trade Missions

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many trade missions were *(a)* led and *(b)* supported by his Department in each year since 1992–93; what was the cost of those trade missions; and if he will make a statement. [34951]

Mr. Hague: The information is as follows:

Year	*Number of missions led and supported by the Welsh Office*	*Total cost (£)*[1]
1992–93	2	[2]6,287
1993–94	6	106,791
1994–95	7	126,061
1995–96 (to date)	3	82,609

[1] These costs do not include staff and Establishment costs which cannot be disaggragated.

[2] current subsidy did not begin until 1993–94. These missions are a very successful and cost effective way of helping Welsh companies to export to new overseas markets.

Further and Higher Education

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the number of state-funded postgraduate students as a proportion of the entire student population at Welsh higher education institutions and if he will make a statement. [34966]

Mr. Richards: Information provided by the Higher Education Statistical Agency shows that, as at 1 December 1994, there were 81,200 students participating in courses of study at Welsh higher education institutions excluding the Open university. Of these, 12,000 were state-funded postgraduates. The state-funded postgraduates thus form 15 per cent. of the total population at Welsh higher education institutions.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what is the number of state-funded students pursuing postgraduate degrees at Welsh institutions of higher education; and if he will make a statement. [34967]

Mr. Richards: Information provided by the Higher Education Statistical Agency shows that, as at 1 December 1994, there were 12,000 postgraduate students participating in courses of study at Welsh Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University) whose major source of finance was from either government departments, other government funded bodies or the European Commission.

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which colleges of further education in Wales have reported that they are suffering financial difficulties, and if he will give details of the extent of those difficulties. [35262]

Mr. Richards: A forecast accumulated deficit of approximately £601,000 was identified for Deeside college up to the end of financial year 1994–95 and a recovery plan is currently in place. More recently, coleg Ceredigion is forecasting an accumulated deficit of approximately £800,000 up to the end of financial year 1994–95. The Further Education Funding Council for Wales has taken swift action to deal with the problem and a full recovery strategy will be presented by college

management to coleg Ceredigion's governors on 20 July. The funding council is closely monitoring the financial health of two other colleges and further action will be taken if it is considered necessary.

Bee Stings

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people died in Wales as a result of being stung by bees between 1984 and 1994; and if he will make a statement. [35016]

Mr. Richards: There were no deaths of Welsh residents certified by the Office of Population and Censuses and Surveys as due to toxic reaction as a result of being stung by hornets, wasps and bees—ICD E905.3—during the period 1984 to 1993. Figures for 1994 are not yet available.

Libraries

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will express general Government expenditure in Wales on libraries as a proportion of the corresponding United Kingdom figure; and if he will make a statement. [35126]

Mr. Richards: In 1993–94, general Government expenditure in Wales on libraries was about 4 per cent. of the corresponding United Kingdom figure.

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) if his Department has now considered the report by management consultant KPMG Peat Marwick into the library service; and if he will make a statement; [36148]

(2) how many branch libraries there are in each county in Wales; [36144]

(3) which libraries in Wales he has visited; [36146]

(4) how many people are employed in the library service in Wales; [36145]

(5) if he will make a statement on the future of the library service in Wales; [36143]

(6) if he will list the libraries in Wales his ministerial team has visited; on what dates; and if he will make a statement. [36147]

Mr. Richards: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible and place a copy of my reply in the Library of the House.

Food Safety

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wale how much his Department spent on identifying food safety risks in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34963]

Mr. Richards: Expenditure incurred by the Welsh Office on identifying food safety risks is not separately identified.

Harbours

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much money his Department has spent in the past 10 years on improving Welsh fishing harbours; and if he will make a statement. [34886]

Mr. Richards: The Welsh Office has provided grant aid totalling £263,542 in the past 10 years for the improvement of Welsh fishing harbours, through the fishery harbour grant scheme under the Fishing Act 1955. In addition, considerable investment has been undertaken by local authorities on improving fishing harbours which has attracted public support from schemes such as the former rural initiative, urban programme and the projects of regional and national importance—PRNI—and special projects schemes. All these schemes are now subsumed in the strategic development scheme. The investment of almost £426,000 in a number of projects to improve the harbour at Holyhead is an example.

Fish Stocks

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many applications to shoot cormorants or goosanders in order to protect fish stocks in Welsh rivers were received by his Department in each of the past three years for which figures are available; and how many such licences were issued. [34929]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The information requested is as follows:

	Applications received	*Licences issued*
1992	2	0
1993	[1]3	0
1994	16	9

[1] This figure includes 1 composite application on behalf of 23 Fishery Owners.

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps his Department has taken to study the impact of river barrages on anadromous fish, with particular reference to experience in France. [34930]

Mr. Jones: The Welsh Office is not carrying out any research into the impact of river barrages on anadromous fish as a direct result of the experience of such barrages in France. However, research into the problems associated with the passage of salmonids past estuarine barrages is currently being carried out by the directorate of fisheries research on behalf of the Welsh office and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The work forms part of a collaborative research programme with the National Rivers Authority, which is also studying the effect on fish migration of barrage construction at Swansea and Cardiff bay.

Departmental Staff

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35463]

Mr. Hague: The total numbers of persons employed by my Department are:

Grade	*Full-time*		*Part-time*		*Total*
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	
G1 and equivalents	1	—	—	—	1
G2 and equivalents	2	—	—	—	2
G3 and equivalents	10	1	—	—	11
G4 and equivalents	5	2	—	—	7
G5 and equivalents	45	8	—	2	55

Grade	Full-time Male	Full-time Female	Part-time Male	Part-time Female	Total
G6 and equivalents	23	3	1	3	30
G7 and equivalents	122	30	—	12	164
SEO and equivalents	113	23	—	5	141
HEO and equivalents	166	87	—	17	270
Admin Fast Stream	12	10	—	1	23
EO and equivalents	209	211	2	75	497
AO and equivalents	157	321	1	110	589
AA and equivalents	152	221	—	46	419
Industrials	97	17	3	8	125

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the numbers and percentages of these staff that are women, in his Department and for each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [35691]

Mr. Hague: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible and place a copy of my reply in the Library of the House.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35667]

Mr. Hague: My Department is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all its employees. In 1994, a revised action programme for women was launched which seeks to identify and address their specific needs and to encourage them to achieve their full potential. My Department is also a member of Opportunity 2000 and fully supports its aims and objectives. Currently women comprise 52 per cent. of the Department's employees and the proportion of women in management grades is increasing steadily.

Agricultural Subsidies

Mr. Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list by county the number of landowners receiving payments under the arable area payments scheme of *(a)* less than £25,000, *(b)* between £25,000 and £50,000, *(c)* between £50,000 and £1,000,000 and *(d)* above £1,000,000, for the latest year for which figures are available. [35363]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: It is not possible to differentiate between landowners and tenants who claim aid.

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, if he will list how much the owner of Castell Cenlas farm, Mathry, Pembrokehsire, Caerau farm, Rhosycaerau, Pembrokeshire, Llandruidon farm, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire and Pantywrach farm, Trecwn, Pembrokeshire, has received in sheep annual premiums, beef annual premiums, suckler cow premiums, set-aside payments and any other agricultural-based payments through his Department in each of the last 10 years. [35988]

Mr. Jones: For reasons of commercial confidentiality, it is not my policy to disclose information about payments to individual farmers.

Child Care

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spends on *(a)* child care provision for under-fives and *(b)* out-of-school provision for the over-fives, both directly, excluding provision for departmental staff, and indirectly through resources made available to local authorities and other organisations; what form of provision is provided; and how many full-time and part-time places are provided. [35548]

Mr. Hague: Most central Government funding of local authority functions is through revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates. This funding is not hypothecated to particular services. It is for each local authority to decide, in line with its statutory duties and local needs and priorities, how much it provides for these services. In 1993–94, the latest year for which information is available, local authorities spend *(a)* £2.3 million on day nurseries and playgroups and *(b)* £3.4 million on child minding, day fostering, family and other day care centres for children. At 31 March 1994, local authorities provided, or bought in from the independent sector, 388 places in day nurseries, 1,126 places in playgroups, 258 places with child minders and 284 places in holiday schemes for children aged five to seven. It is not possible to distinguish between full-time and part-time places.

The Welsh Office has made available £150,000 in 1995–96 to the training and enterprise councils to develop demonstration projects in child care for children below school age and £954,000 under the out-of-school child care grant initiative. Grants in support of child and family services and for the promotion of the Welsh language in 1995–96, together amounting to some £1,190,000, have been awarded to voluntary organisations whose members provide day-care services for young children.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many statements of special educational need have been completed in each local education authority in each of the past 10 years; and how many assessments for statements have been made but not confirmed. [36240]

Mr. Richards: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible and place a copy of my reply in the Library.

Local Education Authorities (Complaints)

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many complaints against local education authorities have been made to the local government ombudsman in each of the past three years; and what was the nature of the complaint in each case. [36241]

Mr. Richards: The Commission for Local Administration is an independent statutory body and questions relating to its activities are for the commission itself to answer.

Information on the numbers of complaints made to the Commission for Local Administration, by type of service, is provided in the annual reports of the Commission, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Blood Bags

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if blood bags from Tuta have been used in the national health service in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [36136]

Mr. Richards: Tuta blood bags were used in the NHS in Wales between 1 June 1995 and the discovery of a fault in the product at the end of that month. Since then, all stocks have been recalled and use of Tuta bags discontinued.

M4

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what is the assessment of the effect of the proposed M4 relief road in Gwent on local sites of special scientific interest. [35875]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The M4 relief road is estimated to occupy less than 2 per cent. of the area of the sites of special scientific interest in the Gwent levels. I am satisfied that the relief road can be developed without the scientific resource being seriously affected.

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what has been the effect on traffic numbers travelling through the Brynglas tunnel and through main routes in Newport since the opening of the tunnel bypass schemes. [35866]

Mr. Jones: There has been a reduction of 22 per cent. in traffic flows through the Brynglas tunnels; and on other routes the reduction has been as follows:

	Per cent.
Malpas Road north of M4	31
Malpas Road south of M4	23
B4596 Caerleon Road South of M4	23
Town Bridge	4

Mr. Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has for an environmental impact assessment on the proposed M4 relief road from the second Severn crossing and Castleton. [35874]

Mr. Jones: An environmental impact assessment on the M4 relief road Magor to Castleton scheme will be carried out and a full environmental statement under the European directive will follow at the time when statutory powers are sought to construct the road.

Educational Psychologists

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list by local education authority the ratio of educational psychologists to children and young people in the age range 0 to 19 years. [36245]

Mr. Richards: The information is as follows:

Local Education Authority	*Number of full-time equivalent educational psychologists in post at January 1994*	*Ratio of educational psychologists to population (estimated, June 1993) aged 0 to 19 years*
Clwyd	17	1:6100
Dyfed	13	1:6600
Gwent	20	1:5800
Gwynedd	6	1:9800
Mid Glamorgan	15	1:9600
Powys	5	1:5800
South Glamorgan	10	1:10900
West Glamorgan	12	1:7700
Wales	98	1:7600

Source:
STATS2 form; Registrar General's mid-year population estimates.

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) if he will make a statement on the additional duties placed on educational psychologists since 1978; and what action he proposes to take over the ratio of educational psychologists to young people in the age range 0–19 years of 1:5,000 recommended in the Warnock report. [36243]

(2) if he will make it his policy to change the recommended ratio of educational psychologists to children from 1:5,000 to 1:4,000; and what would be the additional cost to each local education authority to meet such a target. [36242]

(3) what assessment he has made of the number of educational psychologists that each local education authority will require to carry out its legal responsibilities under the code of practice for the identification and assessment of special educational needs. [36244]

Mr. Richards: The roles and responsibilities of educational psychologists reflect the statutory and non-statutory service provided for those with special education needs, which have significantly improved since 1978. The number of educational psychologists employed by each LEA is a matter for those LEAs.

The Welsh Office continues to support financially the initial training of educational psychologists but I have no plans at present to make recommendations on the ratio of educational psychologists to children and have made no estimate of the additional costs of adopting the ratio suggested by the hon. Gentleman.

Mr. Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list by local education authority the number of educational psychologists employed in each of the last 10 years; and what was the proportion of men to women in each year. [36238]

Mr. Richards: Data have been collected centrally since 1992 but gender is not distinguished. Complete figures for 1995 have not yet been returned.

Number of full time equivalent educational psychologists in post at January

Local education authority	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Clwyd	19	20	17
Dyfed	8	10	13
Gwent	18	21	20
Gwynedd	6	5	6

Number of full time equivalent educational psychologists in post at January

Local education authority	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*
Mid Glamorgan	15	15	15
Powys	4	4	5
South Glamorgan	10	10	10
West Glamorgan	10	10	12
Wales total	90	95	98

Source:
STATS2 form.

Coleg Ceredigion

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, if he will institute an inquiry into the finances of Coleg Ceredigion. [35879]

Mr. Richards: No. The Further Education Funding Council for Wales is dealing with the matter.

Wrexham-Bidston Railway

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultations he has had concerning an improved rail service between Bidston and Wrexham; and if he will make a statement. [36138]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Officials discussed this line when they met the director of Regional Railways North West on 15 June.

Pupils (Exclusion)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school children who have been permanently excluded have received tuition (i) at home and (ii) in a pupil referral unit in each of the past five years. [35840]

Mr. Richards: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school children have been permanently excluded in each local education authority in each of the last five years, and if he will give the figures as a proportion of the total school roll; [35843]

(2) how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school children have been permanently excluded in each of the past five years. [35845]

Mr. Richards: Following the Elton committee of inquiry into discipline in schools, the Welsh Office monitored through the national exclusions reporting system, the incidence and circumstances of permanent exclusions over a two-year period from the summer of 1990. A total of 192 exclusions reported, of which 11 per cent. were in the primary sector. The breakdown by local education authority is as follows:

	Number
Clwyd	32
Dyfed	10
Gwent	49
Gwynedd	9
Mid Glamorgan	63
Powys	7
South Glamorgan	11
West Glamorgan	11

Since then, no information on exclusions has been collected centrally.

Health Authorities and Trust Boards (Members' Allowances)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, pursuant to his answer of 13 July, *Official Report*, columns *771–72*, if he will break down the figures on trust board and health authorities' members' allowances. [35856]

Mr. Richards: The information requested is as follows:

£ thousand

District health authorities	*Fees*	*Other emoluments including pension contributions*
Clwyd	44	236
East Dyfed	0	198
Gwent	41	239
Gwynedd	47	293
Mid Glamorgan	44	233
Pembrokeshire	0	105
Powys	42	231
South Glamorgan	43	185
West Glamorgan	45	288
Special health authorities		
Health Promotion Wales	40	27
Welsh Health Common Services Authority	16	0
Family health services authorities		
Clwyd	61	87
Dyfed	56	50
Gwent	53	34
Gwynedd	56	43
Mid Glamorgan	54	49
Powys	53	43
South Glamorgan	61	45
West Glamorgan	52	41
NHS trusts		
Bridgend and District	44	286
Carmarthen and District	40	178
Ceredigion and Mid Wales	37	142
Clwydian	46	283
Glan Clwyd	39	228
Glan Hafren	46	294
Gwent Community	47	254
Llandough	62	288
Llanelli Dinefwr	42	239
Pembrokeshire	42	273
Powys	44	268
South and east Wales Ambulance	40	200
Swansea	41	194
Wrexham Maelor	29	281

Note:
1993–94 data is provisional.
Source:
Annual Accounts of DHAs, SHAs, FHSAs and NHS Trusts.

Holyhead-Crewe Railway

Mr. Barry Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what consultations he has had with Railtrack concerning the upgrading of the Holyhead-Crewe rail line; and if he will make a statement. [36137]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: Officials discussed this line when they met the director of Railtrack, North-West Zone on 3 May.

Cadw

Mr. Sweeny: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he expects to publish a revised framework document for Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments executive agency. [36376]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: I have now agreed a revised framework document for Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments which I will be publishing shortly. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Sweeny: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he intends to publish the Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments annual report. [36378]

Mr. Jones: The report has been laid before the House today and will be published in August.

Planning

Mr. Sweeny: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he will draft planning policy guidance for Wales. [36377]

Mr. Hague: Tomorrow I shall issue for consultation two planning guidance documents, "Planning Policy Guidance (Wales)" and "Planning Guidance (Wales): Unitary Development Plans in Wales." Copies of the documents will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Sweeney: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what performance targets he has set for the Planning Inspectorate agency's work in Wales for the financial year 1995–96. [36379]

Mr. Gwilym Jones: The key objectives for the agency in 1995–96 continue to be to preserve the impartiality and quality of the Inspectorate's work while seeking to improve its efficiency. I have set the following key performance targets for the agency's work in Wales:

Timeliness

(a) Eighty per cent. of planning appeals by written representations to be decided within 17 weeks.

(b) To provide an Inspector for local plan inquiries on request within 26 weeks of the end of the objection period.

Financial

(a) Unit costs of planning appeals decided by written representations not to exceed £690.

(b) Recover 90 per cent. of receipts due within 8 weeks of invoice date.

Efficiency

Generate a 3 per cent. efficiency improvement in the use of running costs compared with 1994–95.

Quality

(a) The number of justified complaints about the way Inspectors have carried out their duties, and the number of successful challenges in the High Court, should be less than one in every hundred decisions issued.

(b) The number of justified complaints about the way in which the Inspectorate handled the procedural aspects of casework should be less than one in every hundred decisions issued.

Volume

To determine 1,005 appeals, subject to intake not declining.

ENVIRONMENT

Private Rented Sector

5. **Mr. Coe:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on his plans to boost the private rented sector. [33375]

Mr. Gummer: The recent White Paper announced measures which will build on the progress we have achieved since 1988.

We are legislating to make it easier for landlords to let their property. This will increase the supply of good quality accommodation available to rent. We will introduce housing investment trusts to encourage institutional investment in privately rented housing. Trusts will benefit from exemption on capital gains, and a reduced rate of corporation tax.

Rented Accommodation

12. **Mr. Winnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what steps are being taken to encourage the availability of affordable rented accommodation. [33383]

Mr. Curry: This year, public funding will produce 70,000 new social lettings. Around 250,000 existing tenancies become available for reletting each year.

Housing Renovation (Lancashire)

22. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many homes in Lancashire require major renovation to bring them up to acceptable standards. [33395]

Mr. Clappison: On the basis of the data from the most recent returns, it is estimated that 55,000 dwellings in Lancashire were statutorily unfit on 1 April 1994. However, more than a third of these could be made fit by the owners at relatively little expense.

Inner-city Funding

23. **Mr. Dunn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what account he is taking of the political control of local authorities when allocating inner-city funding. [33396]

Sir Paul Beresford: None. The quality and the likelihood of success are the prime considerations in this competition.

Repossessions

24. **Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is his estimate of the number of home owners who will lose their homes through repossession in the next 10 years. [33397]

Mr. Clappison: The only prediction the Government make in this area is that we expect there to be 1.5 million more homeowners over the next 10 years.

Social Rent Homes

25. **Mr. Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many publicly owned social rent homes were started in 1979; and how many will be started in 1995. [33398]

Mr. Curry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave today to the hon. Member for Ealing, Southall (Mr. Khabra).

Houses in Multiple Occupation

26. **Mr. Hawkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what further plans he has to deal with problems arising from the proliferation of houses in multiple occupation, with particular reference to seaside resorts. [33399]

Mr. Curry: The planning powers introduced in April 1994, requiring planning permission for a change of use from hotel or guest house to hostel, together with our proposals to strengthen local authorities' existing housing powers, published last week, will provide considerable control over the impact on local tourism in seaside resorts.

Mr. Bill Michie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on his reasons for not introducing a national licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation. [33644]

Mr. Clappison: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave the hon. Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney) on 13 July, *Official Report*, column *723*.

Disused Oil Rigs (Dumping)

27. **Mr. Alan W. Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the environmental implications of the dumping of disused oil rigs in the North sea or in deeper water. [33400]

Mr. Gummer: All the Governments of the North sea states agreed to the procedure for dumping disused oil rigs. I shall continue to evaluate these matters on the basis of environmental criteria rather than publicity campaigns.

Local Government

28. **Mr. Mackinlay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what proposals he has to extend local democracy and accountability in local government in England. [33401]

Sir Paul Beresford: I thank the hon. Member for his support, and hope that he will help us to encourage the extension of local accountability in achieving, among other things, further improvement in the capital freedom proposed for grant-maintained schools and an increase in the number of sales which will result from the private sector bidding for housing association grant.

Air Quality

29. **Mr. Cyril D. Townsend:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what new initiatives he will be bringing forward to improve air quality in south-east London. [33402]

Mr. Gummer: The Government have brought forward provisions in the Environment Bill to implement a new framework for air quality management and we will publish later this year our proposals for a national strategy for improving air quality.

30. **Mr. Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what funds are being made available to enable industry to comply with the latest air quality emission standards. [33403]

Mr. Clappison: Industry must comply with the latest air quality emission standards by the BATNEEC—best available techniques not entailing excessive cost—objective to minimise emissions, and must also aim to achieve any statutory air quality standards. It is the polluter and not the taxpayer who must pay.

Water Authority Board Members

31. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what steps he is planning to take to limit the annual income of water authority board members. [33404]

Mr. Gummer: The Government are examining the recommendations of the recently published reports by the Employment Select Committee on the remuneration of directors and chief executives of the privatised utilities and the Greenbury committee on directors' pay. A considered response will be made in due course.

Office of Water Services

32. **Mr. Lidington:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has to review the scope of the statutory responsibilities of Ofwat. [33405]

Mr. Clappison: The Government have tabled an amendment to the Environment Bill that would give the Director General of Water Services powers to determine the actions that water companies should take to promote the efficient use of water by their customers, and to publish standards of performance in this respect. My right hon. Friend has no plans, at present, further to review the statutory responsibilities of Ofwat.

Rough Sleeping

33. **Mr. Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has to reduce rough sleeping. [33406]

Mr. Curry: The housing White Paper, published on 27 June, included a commitment to continue a programme to help people sleeping rough in central London beyond March 1996. It also said that we would consider assisting the development of the successful rough sleepers initiative model in areas outside central London where rough sleeping can be demonstrated to be a major problem.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what consideration he has given to extending the duration of the rough sleepers initiative for central London and extending it to other parts of the United Kingdom. [34927]

Mr. Clappison: The housing White Paper—"Our Future Homes", Cm 2901—published on 27 June, included a commitment to continue a programme to help people sleeping rough in cental London beyond March 1996. It also said we would consider assisting the development of the successful rough sleepers initiative model in areas outside central London where rough sleeping can be demonstrated to be a major problem. For

information relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, I refer the hon. Member to the responsible Secretaries of State.

East Thames Corridor

34. **Dr. Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many acres of brown land are available in the east Thames corridor for potential future development. [33407]

Sir Paul Beresford: Work by consultants Llewelyn-Davies, published in 1993, suggests that there are more than 4,000 hectares of mostly recycled urban land with potential for development within the east Thames corridor, extending from docklands to Tilbury in Essex and Sheerness in Kent. The Government have identified the area, now known as Thames gateway, as the major opportunity for growth in the south-east.

Single Regeneration Budget

35. **Mr. Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he intends to issue regional guidance for the second round of bidding for the single regeneration budget. [33408]

Sir Paul Beresford: The bidding guidance for the second round of the single regeneration budget challenge fund was issued on 12 April 1995 and partnerships wishing to submit bids were required to send outline bids to Government offices for the regions by 16 June. We do not intend to publish any further guidance.

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how much each regional government office has available to allocate for new single regeneration and budget schemes. [35471]

Mr. Clappison: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Urban Regeneration to my hon. Friend the Member for Norfolk, North-West (Mr. Bellingham) on 15 June, *Official Report*, column *611*.

Sewage Treatment Works

36. **Mr. Stephen:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what percentage of sewage treatment works failed their consent standards in 1986; and what is the equivalent figure now. [33409]

Mr. Clappison: In 1986, 23 per cent. of those sewage treatment works tested were non-compliant with their discharge consents. In 1993, the latest year for which data are available, the equivalent figure was 6 per cent.

Local Government Finance (Essex)

37. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what representations he has received on Essex county council's revenue support grant. [33410]

Mr. Curry: We received no representations on Essex county council's revenue support grant during the consultation period for 1995–96, which ended on 9 January 1995. Since then, we have received five written representations.

Intergovernmental Panel on Forests

Mr. Dafis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the policy of the United Kingdom Government towards the intergovernmental panel on forests. [33393]

Mr. Gummer: Britain has been determined to repair the failure to tackle world forestry issues at the Rio summit. We have taken the lead in international efforts, both in the Commission for Sustainable Development and elsewhere, which culminated in the successful creation of the intergovernmental panel on forests.

Management Information System for Ministers

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he plans to publish his Department's annual MINIS return. [29154]

Sir Paul Beresford *[pursuant to his reply, 19 June 1995, c.127.]:* I am pleased to announce that my Department published its MINIS return today. I can also announce, on behalf of my colleagues the President of the Board of Trade, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment and the Secretary of State for Transport, that the first MINIS document in respect of Government offices—GO—MINIS 1—is also published today. Copies of the documents have been placed in the Library of the House.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the achievements of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those results and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34703]

Mr. Gummer: In pursuing its various policies which have an impact on small firms, my Department takes full account of their crucial role in the economy. Those policies include our sponsorship of the construction industry as well as our responsibility for regeneration and energy efficiency, where our programmes provide direct assistance to small firms. In other policy areas, such as planning and environmental protection, our concern is to ensure that regulation does not impose unnecessary burdens on business. Details of programmes and policies and their achievements are set out in the Department's annual report, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Water Pollution

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many cases of water pollution have been recorded in each year for the last five years, by region. [34631]

Mr. Clappison: The number of substantiated pollution incidents recorded in each year since 1991 in each region of the National Rivers Authority is set out in the table. For 1990, due to differing recording practices between regions, the figures are in some cases of reported rather than substantiated incidents. As a result, the 1990 data are not directly comparable with those for later years. For

consistency, all data are given on the basis of the current combined regions although the mergers of the Northumbria and Yorkshire regions and the South West and Wessex regions respectively took place in 1993.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Anglian	1,647	2,140	2,462	2,625	2,819
Northumbria/Yorkshire	3,650	3,378	3,059	3,642	3,243
North West	4,171	3,020	3,270	3,656	3,532
Severn Trent	4,421	4,355	4,420	4,876	4,895
Southern	1,521	1,735	1,089	1,355	1,316
Wessex/South West	4,442	3,953	4,278	4,129	4,340
Thames	1,928	1,939	1,955	2,071	2,006
Welsh	1,474	1,949	2,798	2,945	3,264
Total	23,254	22,469	23,331	25,299	25,415

Ozone Levels

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what advice his Department gives to the public when ground level ozone exceeds 90ppb. [34636]

Mr. Clappison: Health advice, up-to-date information on ozone levels and daily forecasts are available to the public at all times on the Government's freephone 0800 556677. Information on daily levels and forecasts is also carried on Ceefax page 404, and on Teletext page 106 and is now also accessible through the internet. Reports and forecasts are sent twice daily to broadcast and print media.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his abatement strategies for oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds upon future levels of ozone in *(a)* urban, *(b)* suburban and *(c)* rural areas of Surrey. [35866]

Mr. Clappison: The Government believe that harmonised action at an international level is necessary to ensure cost-effective reductions in ozone levels in the United Kingdom. The Government have pressed for early consideration of an ozone strategy for Europe within the United Nations Commission for Europe and the European Union. The Government are currently undertaking assessments of the national and international practicability and costs of achieving the recommended air quality standard of the expert panel on air quality standards within the timeframe of the sustainable development strategy.

Mr. Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment on how many occasions in the last five years ozone levels in Surrey have exceeded the standard for ozone recommended by his expert panel on air quality standards. [35867]

Mr. Clappison: The Department of the Environment does not monitor ozone in Surrey. The nearest monitoring site is situated at Lullington Heath in East Sussex where levels are expected to represent some of the highest in the United Kingdom. The expert panel on air quality standard's recommended air quality standard for ozone was exceeded at Lullington Heath on 83 days in 1990, 39 days in 1991, 50 days in 1992, 46 days in 1993 and 55 days in 1994.

Rivers and Canals

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he expects the National Rivers Authority to publish its next report on the quality of rivers and canals in England and Wales. [34629]

Mr. Clappison: Publication of the report on the latest five-yearly review of the quality of rivers and canals in England and Wales is expected in the second half of 1996. However, the report and accounts of the National Rivers Authority for 1994–95, to be published later this month, will contain interim information about improvements in fresh water quality between 1990 and 1994. A copy will be placed in the Library and I have asked the NRA to send a copy of it to the hon. Member.

Sewer Pipes

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if the new BSI specification for sewer pipes will ensure that all concrete, clay or plastic pipes will include a 100-year life expectancy. [34515]

Mr. Clappison: Many factors affect the life span of pipes. These include pipeline design, pipe handling and laying and subsequent ground movement. It is not therefore possible to ensure any particular life expectancy.

Mrs. Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what assessment he has made of the adequacy of twin-walled plastic tubing as a material for the construction of sewer pipes; and if he will make a statement. [34517]

Mr. Clappison: This is a matter for water and sewerage undertakers.

Mrs. Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if the new BSI specification for sewer pipes will guarantee a strength which will withstand a jetting pressure of *(a)* 2,500 or *(b)* 10,000 psi. [34516]

Mr. Clappison: This is a matter for the BSI. I cannot comment on a specification which is still under development.

Mrs. Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment up to what psi pressure jetting contractors operate in the removal of obstructions from sewer pipes. [34514]

Mr. Clappison: This is a matter for the contractors. Guidance is being developed within industry on the use of water jetting for cleaning sewers, which will cover a number of factors such as pressure losses in transmission and the design and control of the nozzle as well as the pressure developed at the pump.

Computer Equipment Suppliers

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34552]

Sir Paul Beresford *[holding answer 14 July 1994]:* In the three years 1992–93, 1994–94 and 1994–95—the period for which records are available—£12.37 million worth of contracts/orders were placed with the following 10 computer equipment suppliers:

Suppliers		£
Apricot	Hardware	4 million
Dell	Hardware	4 million
ICL	Hardware	2 million
Probrand	All purpose	900 thousand
Wordperfect UK	Software	500 thousand
Software Corp	Software	300 thousand
Action Comp Supplies	All purpose	300 thousand
AMA UK	All Purpose	150 thousand
Orion Media Marketing	Consumables	120 thousand
HMSO	All purpose	100 thousand

Leasehold Enfranchisement

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what evidence he has received on the obstacles to leasehold enfranchisement. [34767]

Mr. Clappison: Leasehold enfranchisement is a private transaction between the leaseholders and the landlord, and it is therefore not possible to obtain comprehensive information on a regular basis of the reasons why leaseholders may not have proceeded with enfranchisement. My Department does, however, monitor the number of cases coming before leasehold valuation tribunals where the parties cannot agree terms. To date, 31 cases have been heard and 10 are listed to be heard in the near future.

We have let a research contract to Sheffield Hallam university to follow up the progress with enfranchisement, of a sample of the people who have approached the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service. We expect to publish the final report towards the end of 1996.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when the council of English Nature expects to consider a proposal to denotify as a site of special scientific interest all or part of *(a)* Thorne Moors site of special scientific interest and *(b)* Hatfield Moor site of special scientific interest. [34789]

Mr. Clappison *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* Peatland sites of special scientific interest are currently being surveyed and assessed. Once this work is complete, English Nature will consider later this year whether any boundary changes are necessary.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what representations English Nature has received from the Peat Producers' Association or any of its member organisations on *(a)* revision of sites of special scientific interest boundaries on any peatland sites of special scientific interest with valid planning permission for peat extraction and *(b)* on any peat bogs listed as possible special areas of conservation on its consultation document dated 31 March; and if he will list the sites involved. [34788]

Mr. Clappison *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* In response to consultations by the Government, Levingtons Horticulture Ltd. welcomed the inclusion of Wedholme Flow and Thorne Moors on the list of candidate special areas of conservation. They suggested the removal of certain areas which did not contain a habitat of the type listed in the directive.

Housing Statistics

Mr. Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will estimate the number and proportion of households that have owner-occupiers in each of the years 1991 to 1994, according to *(a)* the age bands under 25, 25 to 29, 30 to 34, 35 to 39, 40 to 44, 45 to 49, 50 to 54 and 55 years and over and *(b)* household types, married couples, cohabiting couples, lone parents, other multi-person households, and one-person households, on a basis consistent with the evidence recently made available to the Environment Select Committee on the need for provision for social housing. [35189]

Mr. Curry: The latest available estimates of the number and proportion of owner occupiers by age and household types are given in the table. These relate to the years 1991 and 1993.

Estimates for 1992 and 1994 are not available.

Sources:

1991 Labour Force Survey.

1993 Survey of English Housing.

Proportion of owner-occupying households

	1991			*1993*		
	Total households	*Owner-occupiers*	*Percentage owner occupiers*	*Total households*	*Owner-occupiers*	*Percentage owner occupiers*
Married couples						
Under 25	204,761	126,952	62	177,789	110,229	60
25 to 29	744,382	461,517	73	685,237	424,847	72
30 to 34	1,060,990	657,814	76	1,045,846	648,425	75
35 to 39	1,104,933	685,058	76	1,106,285	685,897	76
40 to 44	1,291,287	800,598	77	1,157,296	717,524	76
45 to 49	1,124,844	697,403	76	1,255,145	778,190	76
50 to 54	995,202	617,025	72	1,003,630	622,251	72
55 and over	4,020,733	2,492,854	64	4,026,337	2,496,329	67
Cohabiting couples						
Under 25	252,389	156,481	49	240,143	148,889	53
25 to 29	319,665	198,192	65	329,564	204,330	65
30 to 34	206,493	128,026	60	241,457	149,703	66
35 to 39	133,994	83,076	69	149,235	92,526	58

Proportion of owner-occupying households

	1991			1993		
	Total households	*Owner-occupiers*	*Percentage owner occupiers*	*Total households*	*Owner-occupiers*	*Percentage owner occupiers*
40 to 44	109,878	68,124	68	110,858	68,732	61
45 to 49	71,595	44,389	70	87,097	54,000	58
50 to 54	45,053	27,933	53	49,620	30,764	68
55 and over	83,242	51,610	60	90,287	55,978	59
Lone parents						
Under 25	134,210	83,210	5	135,533	84,030	3
25 to 29	190,346	118,015	12	205,239	127,248	14
30 to 34	189,911	117,745	27	213,488	132,363	24
35 to 39	170,467	105,690	42	181,551	112,562	38
40 to 44	153,840	95,381	55	147,690	91,568	47
45 to 49	84,907	52,642	59	100,234	62,145	51
50 to 54	35,275	21,871	53	38,071	23,604	47
55 and over	21,612	13,399	45	22,924	14,213	34
Other multi person						
Under 25	97,285	60,317	18	96,613	59,900	14
25 to 29	126,068	78,162	47	137,989	85,553	37
30 to 34	79,488	49,283	46	99,915	61,947	52
35 to 39	64,703	40,116	64	73,972	45,863	64
40 to 44	93,920	58,230	42	96,267	59,686	48
45 to 49	107,381	66,576	56	129,322	80,180	62
50 to 54	116,692	72,349	49	123,293	76,442	53
55 and over	664,488	411,983	49	668,103	414,224	51
One person						
Under 25	223,502	138,571	29	223,225	138,400	29
25 to 29	389,819	241,688	59	423,593	262,628	56
30 to 34	301,205	186,747	65	377,306	233,930	65
35 to 39	225,782	139,985	64	266,033	164,940	57
40 to 44	242,044	150,067	59	251,644	156,019	57
45 to 49	227,763	141,213	58	277,450	172,019	59
50 to 54	240,172	148,907	53	259,773	161,059	51
55 and over	3,264,770	2,024,157	45	3,315,167	2,055,404	48

Drinking Water (Lead)

Mr. Merchant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if the drinking water inspectorate will give advice to consumers about lead in drinking water. [36078]

Mr. Clappison: The drinking water inspectorate today published "Lead in Drinking Water". This leaflet gives consumers advice on how to find out if they have lead pipes in their home. whether the amount of lead in their drinking water exceeds the standard and how to minimise the level of lead in their drinking water.

Copies of the leaflet has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Going for Green

Mr. Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what progress has been made by the Going for Green initiative. [36079]

Mr. Gummer: The Going for Green national committee has taken responsibility for managing the eco-schools project and I am pleased to announce that 155 schools have already joined, with 500 more expected to do so by the end of the year. The committee has also recommended the development of a green code for the general public to follow and a number of demonstration projects will be established to test its practicability.

Negotiations on detailed proposals are taking place with Lancashire county council, Sedgefield district council and the London borough of Merton, while discussions are at an earlier stage with three other communities, including one in Wales and one in Northern Ireland. In the light of these developments, the committee has proposed that it should examine the feasibility of establishing a company limited by guarantee to take forward the campaign and to attract private sector sponsorship to supplement and partner the public sector support we are able to give I welcome this proposal by the committee. I hope that it will be in a position to decide in the autumn whether to proceed with this option.

Brent Spar

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what are the responsibilities of his Department in relation to the final disposal of the Brent Spar. [33560]

Mr. Clappison: Unless and until action is required under one of the statutory functions of the Secretary of State for the Environment, to ensure that decisions are consistent with the Government's general policies on the marine environment.

Education Funding (Northumberland)

Mr. Jack Thompson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he intends to respond to the letters sent to him by school governors and parents who

support the Fairshares campaign for educational funding in Northumberland. [34820]

Sir Paul Beresford: So far as I am aware, my Department has replied to every letter received from members of the public during this campaign.

Mr. Thompson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment to how many letters sent to him by school governors and parents who support the campaign for increased educational funding in Northumberland he has so far replied. [34821]

Sir Paul Beresford: I refer to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Urban Regeneration to the right hon. Member for Berwick upon Tweed (Mr. Beith) on 29 June, *Official Report*, column *756*.

Private Utilities (Pricing Structure)

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what discussions he has had with the private utilities in respect of pricing structure with special reference to the balance between standing charges and unit costs. [35477]

Mr. Clappison: None. So far as the water industry is concerned, this is a matter for the Director General of Water Services and the water companies.

Housing Investment Programmes

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what was the housing investment programme for each local authority in 1978–79, 1994–95 and 1995–96 in cash and in constant prices. [35473]

Mr. Clappison: Information on housing investment programme allocations for 1978–79, 1994–95 and 1995–96 for each local authority in England is available in the Library.

The GDP market price deflator can be used to exclude the effect of general inflation.

	GDP deflator 1978–79 = 100
1978–79	100.0
1994–95	292.3
1995–96	301.8

Health and Safety

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what responsibilities for health and safety, formerly held by the Department of Employment, have been transferred to his Department. [35584]

Sir Paul Beresford: My Department has taken over responsibility for the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive. The allocation of other responsibilities relating to health and safety at work is still under consideration.

Child Care

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how much his Department spends on *(a)* child care provision for under-fives and *(b)* out-of-school provision for the over-fives, both directly, excluding provision for departmental staff, and indirectly through resources made available to local authorities and other organisation; what form of provision is provided; and how many full-time and part-time places are provided. [35549]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Department's only direct spending on child care provision for under-fives and out-of-school provision for over-fives, is limited to provision for departmental staff.

My Department does not make resources available to local authorities specifically for child care. My Department is responsible for distributing revenue support grant to English local authorities. Local spending decisions on child care are, however, a matter for each local authority. It is likely that some local child care and out-of-school provision is supported through commitments under the single regeneration budget and, since March 1995, under the single regeneration budget challenge fund, although this information is not held centrally.

Departmental Employees

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35464]

Sir Paul Beresford: The following information is for 1 April 1995 and covers non-industrial staff in my Department, excluding Ordnance Survey and PSA Services.

	Male		*Female*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Grade 1	1	0	0	0
Grade 2	5	0	2	0
Grade 3	26	0	4	0
Grade 4	5	0	0	0
Grade 5	108	3	17	5
Grade 6	283	9	23	6
Grade 7	596	3	108	30
SEO and equivalent	576	5	116	19
HEO and equivalent	616	6	251	51
EO and equivalent	651	4	478	45
AO and equivalent	557	4	796	135
AA and equivalent	231	1	352	82

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and percentages of these staff that are women, in his Department and for each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [35680]

Sir Paul Beresford: The information is not available in the form requested but details by grade and gender for the Department as a whole, including the executive agencies, can be found in table 5 of "Civil Service Statistics" for each year from 1985 to 1994—copies are available in the Library. Details for 1995 will be published later this year.

Women (Promotions)

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35672]

Sir Paul Beresford: The Department is committed to equality of opportunity for all employees. In relation to women there is a departmental action plan to achieve equality of opportunity based on the programme for action for women in the civil service. Initiatives taken to improve the development and promotion of women staff include equal opportunities training and seminars for staff and senior managers; a women in management training course; at least one woman on each promotion panel; part-time working; and nursery and holiday play schemes are available.

Sikh Turban Wearers

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment by what means Her Majesty's Government continued exemption, notwithstanding the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations, for Sikh turban wearers employed in construction and serving in the armed forces. [35583]

Sir Paul Beresford: Section 11 of the Employment Act 1989 exempts Sikh turban wearers from any statutory requirements to wear protective headgear while on a construction site. The position of Sikh turban wearers in the armed forces is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence.

Regional Funds

Mr. Alton: To ask Secretary of State for the Environment if he will report on the stage the 1994 objective 1 bid of Liverpool chamber of commerce and industry has reached; and if he will ensure that the telematics service is implemented as quickly as possible. [36099]

Sir Paul Beresford: Five projects form Liverpool chamber of commerce were approved in principle last October. Four have received offers of grant and have been completed or are in the progress. Offer letters can only be issued when all requirements for award of grant have been fulfilled. The Government office is working with the Liverpool Chamber to progress the fifth project which concerns a telematics service.

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many 1994 objective 1 bids were successful; how many received some or all of the cash they were granted; how many have received no funding; what factors underlie failure to collect funding; and if he will make a statement. [36098]

Sir Paul Beresford: A total of 797 projects were approved in principle. Grant payments have been made for 699 projects. More than 70 projects have yet to claim and a small number are with the Government office for processing.

There are a number of factors which can affect the draw down of grant aid. For the European social fund, grant payments are made in three stages. The overwhelming majority of stage 1 and 2 claims have been paid. In a small number of cases inaccuracies in the paperwork have resulted in delay. Final claims are not due to be paid until September. For the European regional development fund, project sponsors must incur expenditure before claims for grant payment can be submitted and the spend profile of a project can span a number of years.

Planning Enforcement

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will carry out a policy review of the new and strengthened planning enforcement provisions introduced into part VII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991; [35934]

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will carry out a policy review of the new and strengthened planning enforcement provisions introduced into part VII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991. [36400]

Sir Paul Beresford: We have completed a review of local planning authorities' use of the planning enforcement provisions in the Planning and Compensation Act 1991, based on a planning consultants' research project involving a representative sample of more than 100 local planning authorities in England and Wales. The research report's conclusions are that planning authorities are generally using the new provisions effectively; and the wider range of available enforcement powers enables authorities better to implement whatever remedial action is most suited to each breach of planning control.

The research report is being published tomorrow and copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

County Hall, London

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment who gave permission for a pop concert and party to be held at county hall, London SE1, on 15 July; what licences were issued; and why the event was cancelled. [35838]

Sir Paul Beresford: The county hall main building is now privately owned by the Shirayama Corporation of Japan. It would be for the owners of the building and the organisers of any event proposed to be held there to obtain any permissions or licences which might be required, and to decide whether to proceed with or to cancel that event.

Mr. Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment for what reasons the freehold of county hall, London SE1, was transferred to Shirayama Shokusan Co. Ltd.; when this occurred; and what was the amount involved. [35970]

Sir Paul Beresford: The sale to Shirayama Shokusan of a 999-year lease on the riverside building of county hall in October 1993 provided for the transfer to Shirayama of the freehold interest in the building, for a nominal sum—£1—, upon the earlier (i) completion of listed building works, and (ii) transfer of the freehold of the rest of the site.

The freehold of the remainder of the site was subsequently sold to Shirayama in April 1995.

Local Government Finance (Isle of Wight)

Mr. Barry Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what studies he has made of the effect of the data on the new earnings survey from the Isle of Wight and its effect on the area cost adjustment formulae for the Isle of Wight and if he has seen the correspondence from Mr. Orchard of the Department of Employment and the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight. [35871]

Sir Paul Beresford: I will write to my hon. Friend.

Mr. Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will take into account the Island Apart evidence when looking at the area cost adjustment formulae and the effects any changes to that formulae will have on the Isle of Wight's local government finance. [35941]

Sir Paul Beresford: We will consider all the evidence available to us on the area cost adjustment when forming our proposals for the 1996–97 local government finance settlement later this year.

London Residuary Body

Mr. Tony Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment on what grounds the royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea was chosen to prepare the accounts for 1995–96 following the wind-up of the London residuary body. [35860]

Sir Paul Beresford: The detailed arrangements for winding up the London residuary body, including the preparation of the final accounts, are matters to be decided when the order winding-up the London residuary body is made.

Mr. Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he expects to make an order winding up the London residuary body. [35859]

Sir Paul Beresford: My right hon. Friend intends to make such an order as soon as practicable, having regard to the outstanding responsibilities of the residuary body.

Mr. Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many hours a week each London residuary body board member worked in 1994–95 on London residuary body business; what emoluments each received; and what payments will be made to the board members when the London residuary board is finally wound-up. [35861]

Sir Paul Beresford: The board members of the London residuary body received the following emoluments in 1994–95:

Sir Godfrey Taylor (Chairman): £15,430 for 1 day per week

M. C. Roberts Esq.: £9,320 for 1 day per week

W. J. Mackenzie Esq.: £9,320 for 1 day per week

J. Wolkind Esq.: £9,320 for 1 day per week

In practice, board members frequently commit more time and energy to their duties than required by their contracts.

There will be no extra payments to the board members of the LRB upon its wind-up.

Irish Sea Science

Mr. Congdon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what further progress has been made by the Irish sea science co-ordinator in reviewing Irish sea science. [35987]

Mr. Clappison: The co-ordinator, a joint UK-Irish appointment, has submitted his final report to the UK and Irish Governments as the "Third Report of the Irish Sea Science Co-ordinator". Building on the two previous reports, it proposes a set of studies to fill important gaps in scientific knowledge of the area and to form the basis of a structured and integrated programme to enhance abilities to protect the Irish sea and manage its resources. Further discussions between sponsoring Departments are proceeding to consider implications for research requirements and future marine policies. I am placing copies in the Library of the House today.

Special Areas of Conservation

Mr. Ainger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answer of 20 June, *Official Report*, columns *140–43*, if he will list for each proposed special area of conservation *(a)* the relevant parliamentary constituency and *(b)* the relevant European parliamentary constituency. [35880]

Mr. Clappison: The relevant constituencies for the candidate special areas of conservation submitted to the European Commission are as follows:

Proposed special area of conservation	*Parliamentary constituency*	*European parliamentary constituency*
Amat Woods	Caithness and Sutherland	Highlands and Islands
Ardmeanach	Argyll and Bute	Highlands and Islands
Ballynahone Bog	East Londonderry	Northern Ireland
Barry Links	Angus East	Scotland North East
Beer Quarry and Caves	Honiton	Dorset and East Devon
Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons	Waveney	Suffolk and South West Norfolk
Berwyn	Meirionydd Nant Conwy Montgomery, Clwyd South West	(1) Mid and West Wales (2) North Wales
Birklands and Bilhaugh	Sherwood	Nottinghamshire North and Chesterfield
Black Bog	Mid-Ulster	Northern Ireland
Black Wood of Rannoch	Tayside North	Scotland North East
Blawhorn Moss	Livingston	Lothians
Blean Complex	Canterbury	Kent East
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	Workington, Penrith and the Border	Cumbria and Lancashire North
Braehead Moss	Clydesdale	South Scotland

Proposed special area of conservation	*Parliamentary constituency*	*European parliamentary constituency*
Bredon Hill	Worcestershire South	Worcestershire and South Warwickshire
Cilfach Burry: Twyni/Burry Inlet: Dunes	Gower and Carmarthen	Mid and West Wales
Cannock Extension Canal	Aldridge Brownhills, Cannock and Burntwood, Staffordshire South	Birmingham West, Staffordshire East and Derby, Staffordshire West and Congleton
Carrine Common	Truro	Cornwall and West Plymouth
Castle Eden Dene	Easington	Durham
Castle Hill	Lewes	East Sussex and Kent South
Chilmark Quarries	Westbury	Wiltshire North and Bath
Chilterns Beechwoods	Wycombe, Aylesbury, Henley	Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire East
Cockinhead Moss	Cunninghame North	Strathclyde West
Coed y Cerrig	Monmouth	South Wales East
Coedydd a Cheunant, Rheidol/Rheidol Woods	Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire North	Mid and West Wales
Coedydd Derw, Meirion/Merionnyd Woods	Meirionydd Nant Conwy	Mid and West Wales
Coleg Glynllifon	Caernarfon	North Wales
Cors Caron	Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire North	Mid and West Wales
Cors Fochno	Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire North	Mid and West Wales
Corsydd Mon/Angelsea Fens	Ynys Mon	North Wales
Cothill Fen	Oxford West and Abingdon	Hampshire North and Oxford
Craigengar	Linlithgow	Lothians
Cranley Moss	Clydesdale	South Scotland
Creag nan Gamhainn	Moray	Highlands and Islands
Cors Crymlyn/Crymlyn Bog	Swansea West	South Wales West
Cuileagh Mountain	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Northern Ireland
Culbin Bar	Moray	Highlands and Islands
Culm Grasslands	Devon West and Torridge	Devon
Cwm Cadlan	Cynon Valley	South Wales Central
Derryleckagh	South Down	Northern Ireland
Drostre Bank	Brecon and Radnor	Mid and West Wales
East Hampshire Hangers	East Hampshire	South Downs West
Eastern Mournes	South Down	Northern Ireland
Ebernoe Common	Chichester	South Downs West
Eilean na Muice Duibhe	Argyll and Bute	Highlands and Islands
Elenydd	Montgomery	Mid and West Wales
Eryri/Snowdonia	Conwy	North Wales
Fairy Water Bogs	Mid-Ulster	Northern Ireland
Fenland	Cambridgeshire South, East Huntingdon	Cambridgeshire
Feur Lochain	Argyll and Bute	Highlands and Islands
Flow of Dergoals	Galloway and Upper Nithdsale	South Scotland
Gang Mine	West Derbyshire	Peak District
Garron Plateau	East Antrim/North Antrim	Northern Ireland
Garry Bog	North Antrim	Northern Ireland
Garry na Criche	Argyll and Bute	Highlands and Islands
Glannau Mon: Cors heli/ Angelesa Coast: Saltmarsh	Ynys Mon	North Wales
Glannau Mon: Twyni/ Anglsea Coast: Dunes	Ynys Mon	North Wales
Glanau Ynys Gybi/Holy Island Coast	Ynys Mon	North Wales
Glen Coe	Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber	Highlands and Islands
Godrevy Head to St. Agnes	St. Ives, Falmouth and Cambourne, Truro	Cornwall and West Plymouth
Pen Y Gosgarth/ Great Orme's Head	Conwy	North Wales
Great Yews	Salisbury	Itchen Test and Avon
Helvellyn and Fairfield	Penrith and the Border, Workington	Cumbria and Lancashire North
Hascosay	Orkney and Shetland	Highlands and Islands
Hill of Towanreef	(1) Banff and Buchan	(1) Scotland North East
	(2) Moray	(2) Highlands and Islands
Holme Moor and Clean Moor	Taunton	Somerset and North Devon
Hoy	Orkney and Shetland	Highlands and Islands
Inchnadamph	Caithness and Sutherland	Highlands and Islands
Invernaver	Caithness and Sutherland	Highlands and Islands

Proposed special area of conservation	*Parliamentary constituency*	*European parliamentary constituency*
Isle of Wight Downs	Isle of Wight	Wight and Hampshire South
Keen of Hamar	Orkney and Shetland	Highlands and Islands
Cynffig/Kenfig	Bridgend	South Wales West
Kilhern Moss	Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	South Scotland
Kingley Vale	Chichester	South Downs West
Kirkcowan Flow	Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	South Scotland
Lewes Downs	Lewes	East Sussex and Kent South
Clogwyni Calenfaen De-Orllewin Cymru/Limestone seacliffs of South West Wales	Pembroke and Gower	(1) Mid and West Wales (2) South Wales West
Lismore Lochs	Argyll and Bute	Highlands and Islands
Llyn Syfaddan/Llangorse Lake	Brecon and Radnor	Mid and West Wales
Loch Watten	Caithness and Sutherland	Highlands and Islands
Lydden and Temple Ewell Downs	Dover	Kent East
Magheraveely Marl Loughs	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Northern Ireland
Merrick Kells	(1) Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley (2) Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	(1) South Scotland (2) South Scotland
Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes	Suffolk Coastal	Suffolk and South West Norfolk
Mochrum Lochs	Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	South Scotland
Monadh Mor	Ross, Cromarty and Skye	Highlands and Islands
Monawilkin	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Northern Ireland
Moniack Gorge	Ross, Cromarty and Skye	Highlands and Islands
Morrone Birkwood	Kincardine and Deesside	Scotland North East
Mound Alderwoods	Caithness and Sutherland	Highlands and Islands
Newham Fen	Berwick upon Tweed	Northumbria
Norfolk Valley Fens	Norfolk North West, Norfolk South West and Mid Norfolk	Norfolk
North Northumberland Dunes	Berwick upon Tweed	Northumbria
North Pennines Dales Meadows	Richmond, Skipton and Ripon, Hexham, Durham North West, Bishop Auckland, Penrith and the Border, Westmorland and Lonsdale	Northumbria, Cumbria and Lancashire North, Durham, Cleveland and Richmond, North Yorkshire
Oak Mere	Eddisbury	Cheshire West and Wirral
Oldshoremore and Sandwood	Caithness and Sutherland	Highlands and Islands
Oxford Meadows	Oxford West and Abingdon	Hampshire North and Oxford
Pasturefields Salt Marsh	Stafford	Staffordshire West and Congleton
Safleodd Ystlumod, Penfro/Pembrokeshire bat sites	Pembrokeshire	Mid and West Wales
Pettigoe Plateau	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Northern Ireland
Pewsey Downs	Devizes	Wiltshire North and Bath
Pitmaduthy Moss	Ross, Cromarty and Skye	Highlands and Islands
Prescombe Down	Salisbury	Itchen Test and Avon
Preseli	Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire North	Mid and West Wales
Queendown Warren	Mid Kent	Kent West
Reidside Moss	Banff and Buchan	Scotland North East
Rex Graham Reserve	Bury St. Edmunds	Suffolk and South West Norfolk
Rhinog	Meirionydd Nant Conwy	Mid and West Wales
Rhos Goch	Brecon and Radnor	Mid and West Wales
Rhos Llawr-cwrt	Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire North	Mid and West Wales
Rooksmoor	Dorset North	Dorset and East Devon
Rum	Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber	Highlands and Islands
Slieve Beagh	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Northern Ireland
TY Ddewi/St. Davids	Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire North	Mid and West Wales
Staverton Park and the Thicks, Wantisden	Suffolk Coastal	Suffolk and South West Norfolk
Strath	Ross, Cromarty and Skye	Highlands and Islands
Stromness Heaths and Coast	Orkney and Shetland	Highlands and Islands

Proposed special area of conservation	*Parliamentary constituency*	*European parliamentary constituency*
Safleodd Ystlumod Tanat ac Efyrnwy/Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat Sites Taynish Woods	Montgomery, Clywd South West	(1) Mid and West Wales (2) North Wales
Teal Lough	Mid-Ulster	Northern Ireland
The Mens	Chichester	South Downs West
The New Forest	New Forest	Itchen Test and Avon
The Stiperstones and the Hollies	Ludlow	Herefordshire and Shropshire
Thorne Moor	Doncaster North and Boothferry	Yorkshire South and Humberside
Thrislington	Sedgefield	Durham
Tingon	Orkney and Shetland	Highlands and Islands
Tregoning Hill	Cornwall South East	Cornwall and West Plymouth
Trotternish Ridge	Ross, Cromarty and Skye	Highlands and Islands
Tulach Hill and Glen Fender Meadows	Tayside North	Scotland North East
Tyne and Allen River Gravels	Hexham	Northumbria
Upper Lough Earne	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Northern Irleand
Wasdale Screes	Copeland	Cumbria and Lancashire North
West Midland Mosses	Eddisbury, Stafford, Crewe and Nantwich, North Shropshire	Cheshire West and Wirral, Staffordshire West and Congleton, Herefordshire and Shropshire
Whitlaw and Branxholme	Tweeddale, Etterick and Lauderdale	South Scotland
Windsor Forest and Great Park	Windsor and Maidenhead, Surrey North West, Berkshire East	Thames Valley, Surrey
Wye and Crundale Downs	Ashford	Kent East

Urban Development Areas

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment how many permanent jobs have been created in each urban development area net of losses and relocations since the inception of each urban development corporation. [36123]

Sir Paul Beresford: Reliable data on net employment in urban development areas are not available. Gross jobs created by each urban development corporation up to 31 March are as follows:

	Number
London Docklands	63,025
Merseyside	14,458
Teesside	7,682
Black Country	13,357
Trafford Park	16,197
Tyne & Wear	19,649
Bristol	3,830
Sheffield	11,328
Central Manchester	4,909
Leeds	9,066
Birmingham Heartlands	1,773
Plymouth	0
Total	165,274

Skin Disease

Mr. Congdon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment what plans his Department has to examine skin disease in the context of health and safety at work. [35969]

Sir Paul Beresford: Since 1993, the Health and Safety Executive—HSE—has been funding a surveillance scheme for occupational skin disease—EPI-DERM—to determine the major causes of work related skin disorders and to identify the occupations most at risk. The initial findings confirm that occupational dermatitis is still the most widespread form of work related skin disease.

The HSE is therefore to focus on reducing the incidence of occupational dermatitis as part of its "Good Health is Good Business Campaign". This phase of the campaign, which will be launched in the spring next year, aims to raise awareness of the causes of work-related dermatitis and the steps employers need to take to prevent it.

The HSE is also acting to reduce the harm that can be caused by exposure to ultra-violet light at work. It has published guidance for outdoor workers alerting them to the dangers of over-exposure to the sun and advising them of the precautions that they should take to protect their skin.

Planning Inspectorate Agency

Mr. Patrick Thompson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what performance targets he has set for the Planning Inspectorate agency for the financial year 1995–96. [36397]

Sir Paul Beresford: The key objectives for the agency in 1995–96 continue to be to preserve the impartiality and quality of the inspectorate's work while seeking further to improve efficiency. I have set the following key targets for the agency's work in England:

Timeliness

(a) 80 per cent of planning appeals by written representations to be decided within 18 weeks;

(b) to provide an Inspector for local plan inquiries on request within 26 weeks of the end of the objection period;

Financial:

(a) unit costs of planning appeals decided by written representations not to exceed £690;

(b) recover 90 per cent. of receipts due within 8 weeks of invoice date;

Efficiency

(a) generate a 3 per cent. efficiency improvement in the use of running costs compared with 1994–95;

Quality:

(a) the number of justified complaints about the way inspectors have carried out their duties, and the number of High Court challenges, should be less than one in every one hundred decisions issued;

(b) the number of justified complaints about the way the Inspectorate have handled the procedural aspects of casework should be less than one every hundred new cases received;

Volume:

to determine 14,900 appeals, subject to intake not declining.

Latent Defects Liability and BUILD Insurance

Mr. Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what responses he has received to his Department's consultation document on latent defects liability and BUILD insurance. [36398]

Mr. Robert B. Jones: The Department received a total of 109 responses to the consultation paper on latent defects liability and BUILD insurance which it published on 12 April. The paper put forward proposals for legislation resulting from recommendations in the report by Sir Michael Latham, "Constructing the Team". The responses will be taken into account in making decisions on any future legislation.

A list of the 99 non-confidential responses received has been placed in the Library of the House, together with a summary. Copies of individual responses and a report on the response may be obtained through the Library.

An analysis of responses to a second consultation document on fair construction contracts is now being prepared. A total of 135 responses have been received. A list of non-confidential responses received together with a summary will be available from the Library shortly.

Town Centres

Mr. Robert Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he proposes to issue for consultation his revision of planning policy guidance note 6 on town centres and retail developments; and if he will make a statement. [36399]

Mr. Gummer: Following the strong support given by the Environment Committee for the Government's policy on town centres and retail developments, I undertook to revise or planning policy guidance, PPG6, to clarify various issues. I have today issued for consultation revised guidance on this subject. Comments on the revised draft PPG6 are invited by 2 October 1995. I have arranged for copies of the draft revised PPG6 to be placed in the Library of the House.

The Government are strongly committed to urban regeneration and many of its policies are directed to this end. As part of this, the guidance reflects the Government's determination to revitalise our town centres by encouraging developers to invest in town centres. This applies not only to shopping developments, but to other uses such as offices and other businesses, entertainment, leisure, and higher education. We are determined that town centres should be attractive and competitive locations for investment.

The draft guidance encourages local planning authorities, consulting business interests and the wider community, to draw up strategies for retail developments in their local development plans. This should provide greater certainty for investors. The draft advocates the sequential approach, whereby retail developments should look first to town centres, next edge-of-centre sites and only then out-of-centre sites, if not suitable sites are available. It advises local planning authorities to plan positively and identify suitable sites in their local plans. This does not mean a complete ban on out-of-centre shopping developments, but such proposals will continue to need to be assessed against the tests of impact on existing centres, accessibility by a choice of means of transport and impact on overall car travel.

The main changes to this guidance are:

(i) on planning for town centres and retailing:

emphasis on a plan-led approach to promoting development in town centres, both through policies and the identification of locations and sites for development;

emphasis on the sequential approach to selecting sites for development, whether for food or comparison shopping; and

support for local and neighbourhood centres.

(ii) on town centres:

promotion of mixed-use development and retention of key town centre uses, including cinemas;

emphasis on the importance of a coherent town centre parking strategy in maintaining urban vitality, through a combination of location, management and pricing or parking for different user groups—it clarifies the relationship between PPG6 and PPG13;

promotion of town centre management to develop clear standards of service and improve quality for town centre users; and

promotion of good urban design, including attractive and secure car parks.

(iii) on assessment of retail proposals:

clarifying the three key tests for assessing retail developments: impact on vitality and viability of town centres; accessibility by a choice of means of transport; and impact on overall travel and car use;

how to access out-of-centre developments; and, finally

how certain new types of retail developments should be assessed.

Development Quality

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what role planning conditions can play in improving the quality of development; and if he will make a statement. [36401]

Mr. Gummer: The Government consider that the sensitive use of conditions can improve development control and enhance public confidence in the planning system. If used properly, planning conditions can play a valuable role in enhancing the quality of development.

Advice to this effect is contained in Department of the Environment circular 11/95—Welsh Office 35/95—which was published today. The circular updates policy advice and guidance on the use of planning conditions. Among other things, the circular reflects guidance in planning policy guidance notes on the use of conditions in respect of transport, retail development, contaminated land, noise, and affordable housing. The circular also gives additional advice on the use of conditions in respect of design and landscape, access for disabled people, nature conservation and endangered species; and contains many more examples of "model" conditions.

Local Government Reorganisation (Staff Compensation)

Mr. David Nicholson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what measures he will put in place to compensate staff who suffer a reduction in salary as a result of local government reorganisation. [36402]

Sir Paul Beresford: We are today launching a consultation on draft regulations which will give effect to the scheme for detriment compensation which my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment announced on 30 March, *Official Report*, column *733*. The scheme provides for compensation of staff who suffer a drop in salary as a result of local government reorganisation. Such staff will, in effect, have their salary maintained for a transitional three-year period if they work in a reorganised authority and are appointed to a job at a lower salary with a relevant authority during the prescribed period. By avoiding the need for redundancy payments and encouraging councils to retrain existing employees in new jobs, the scheme should benefit staff, employers, and the taxpayer. There will be a period of eight weeks in which local authorities, local authority associations and other interested parties will be able to make comments on these draft regulations.

Public Income and Expenditure, London

Mr. Tracey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has to publish statistics quantifying public income and expenditure in London. [36403]

Mr. Gummer: I propose to publish "London: Facts and Figures 1995", later this month. It will provide, in a single source, data on a wide range of London issues and activities.

During the preparation of this publication, we asked our consultants to examine data on public spending and revenues to see if it is possible to calculate the position for London. More work needs to be done before a firm conclusion can be reached and, through the Government office for London, I will be issuing a consultation paper shortly on the subject.

Regional Boundaries

Mr. Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, pursuant to his answer of 26 June, *Official Report*, columns *541–42*, if he has completed his consideration of the recommendations of the Environment Agency advisory committee on regional boundaries. [36549]

Mr. Gummer: I have today confirmed the Government's acceptance of the regional boundaries of the Environment Agency proposed by the Environment Agency advisory committee, modified so that the region covered by the Welsh regional environment protection advisory committee corresponds to Wales alone. These proposals build on the successful river catchment based approach developed by the National Rivers Authority, while ensuring integration of pollution control functions in a way which maximises continuity and scope for close and responsive relationships at a local level. For those who deal with the agency, it will ensure the full benefits of bringing together the different environmental regulators while enabling continuation of the best features of existing arrangements. The agency will keep its boundaries under review, so that adjustments can be made in the light of experience if necessary.

Bristol Development Corporation

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when the Bristol development corporation will be wound up; and if he will make a statement. [36550]

Mr. Curry: Statutory orders will be laid before Parliament later this year to effect the wind-up and dissolution of Bristol development corporation. Subject to parliamentary approval, the corporation will cease to act from 1 January 1996, except for the purpose of preparing its final accounts and report and winding up its affairs. The corporation will be dissolved on 1 April 1996.

Urban development corporations were set up, with finite lifetimes, to regenerate their designated areas. Since designation on 30 June 1988, Bristol development corporation has provided major infrastructure investment which has already revitalised much of east Bristol.

The corporation expects its activities to lead, in total, to the reclamation of 81 hectares of land, the creation of 450,000 sq m of commercial floorspace and 1,220 housing units, the creation of 16,500 permanent jobs and the attraction of £650 million of private sector investment. Bristol will continue to reap the benefits of the corporation's activities well into the new millennium.

Countryside Commission Chairman

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment when he expects to announce the appointment of a new chairman of the Countryside Commission. [36601]

Mr. Gummer: Selection of a new chairman of the Countryside Commission has been made by following a new process, involving advertisement of the post in the national press and the employment of executive search consultants. More than 120 candidates were produced by these methods, form whom we are able, with the advice and assistance of the consultants, to identify a shortlist of names of a high standard meriting serious consideration. Mr. Richard Simmonds clearly emerged from that shortlist as the best candidate and I am pleased to announce his appointment as the new chairman of the Countryside Commission to take effect from 1 October.

Richard Simmonds has all the qualities which are needed for this post: in particular, he has wide and relevant experience, a considerable knowledge of countryside matters, leadership skill and the clear vision and sense of purpose required. He will make an excellent chairman.

2 Marsham Street

Mr. Thomason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement about progress on the 2 Marsham street development. [36659]

Mr. Gummer: The dreadful towers of the DOE's headquarters building have set a poor example to the nation. We now have a welcome opportunity to put right past mistakes and I am determined that the redevelopment of this site will set a better standard.

We need a development which will underpin the continuing regeneration of this part of Westminster by creating a welcoming environment, by attracting more life and providing for a mixture of uses. We also need to show how new and viable city centre redevelopment can complement its neighbourhood and fit in more closely with the existing urban fabric.

I have decided that these aims can best be secured through an open competition in which designers and architects will be invited to devise a new urban design framework for this site, which will make the most of the opportunity we now have. This competition will throw the field open to fresh and creative ideas for an urban design which will be attractive to those who live or work in the area.

The competition will concentrate initially on urban design rather that the architecture of individual buildings. We need a broad and flexible masterplan, not a detailed blueprint. There are several reasons for this: Many aspects of urban design on a specific site can be considered independently of detailed decisions about the use of individual buildings. This is currently often overlooked in developments on this scale; The Government are still considering whether it wishes to occupy part of the redevelopment, and if so how much; I want to keep the option of having the individual buildings which make up the redevelopment designed by different architects within the agreed urban design framework.

Concentrating on urban issues will have an important additional advantage. Since detailed architectural issues will not be considered at this stage, designers will be able to prepare competition entries more easily and at less expense. I hope that this will make it easier for smaller design practices to compete with the giants, that many young architects, from the UK and abroad, will therefore be encouraged to enter. The best entries to the competition will be exhibited to the public next year.

The next step will be to prepare the brief for this competition. This we shall do with the help of professional advisers and in consultation with the local community. In particular, our advisers will be asked to prepare an urban context study of the area which will form part of the brief for the competition. I will announce further details about this shortly.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police (Civilian Support Staff)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the ratio of police officers to civilian support staff in *(a)* each police force in England and i(b) overall in England. [34302]

Mr. Maclean: The ratio of police officers to civilian support staff in each police force in England as at 31 March 1995 is set out in the table. Overall in England the ratio is 2.2:1.

Ratio of police officers to civilians support staff in each police force in England as at 31 March 1995

Force	*Ratio*
Avon and Somerset	2.3:1
Bedfordshire	2.2:1
Cambridgeshire	2.6:1
Cheshire	3.0:1
Cleveland	2.6:1
Cumbria	2.5:1
Derbyshire	2.7:1
Devon and Cornwall	2.3:1
Dorset	2.0:1
Durham	2.7:1
Essex	2.2:1
Gloucestershire	2.8:1
Greater Manchester	2.4:1
Hampshire	2.5:1
Hertfordshire	2.2:1
Humberside	3.1:1
Kent	2.6:1
Lancashire	2.6:1
Leicestershire	2.4:1
Lincolnshire	2.3:1
Merseyside	2.7:1
Norfolk	2.6:1
Northamptonshire	2.4:1
Northumbria	2.6:1
North Yorkshire	2.4:1
Nottinghamshire	2.4:1
South Yorkshire	2.5:1
Staffordshire	2.8:1
Suffolk	2.2:1
Surrey	2.1:1
Sussex	2.5:1
Thames Valley	2.1:1
Warwickshire	2.6:1
West Mercia	2.0:1
West Midlands	2.5:1
West Yorkshire	2.4:1
Wiltshire	2.6:1
City of London	2.6:1
Metropolitan	1.7:1
Overall in England	2.2:1

Child Care Facilities

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spends on *(a)* child care provision for under-fives and *(b)* out-of-school provision for the over-fives, both directly, excluding provision for departmental staff, and indirectly through resources made available to local authorities and other organisations; what form of provision is provided; and how many full-time and part-time places are provided. [35554]

Mr. Howard: The information is not available precisely in the form requested. However, I can advise the hon. Member that the following kinds of provision are funded:

(i) Ethnic minority grant (Wales)—there is a project in Wales which meets the costs of providing child care facilities for children of people attending training courses. For 1995-96, this amounts to £5,798.

(ii) Section 11 grant—the costs of providing child care facilities are met in 12 projects. Some 14.75 posts are funded at an estimated cost of £77,000.

(iii) Facilities for children in prisons—some creche and play scheme facilities exist in prisons for the benefit of children accompanying visitors. These are normally funded by the Governor's operational budget, but precise details of how much is spent are not held centrally and to compile them would incur disproportionate costs.

Civil Servants

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35460]

Mr. Howard: The numbers of permanent industrial and non-industrial staff on 1 April 1995 on a head count basis for the main Home Office and its agencies were as follows. Figures for the Prison Service shown are as from 17 July 1995.

	(a) Male		(b) Female	
	(i) Full-time	(ii) Part-time	(i) Full-time	(ii) Part-time
Home Office Main (includes IND)	4,605	34	3,739	705
UKPA	538	10	825	150
FSS	339	0	249	116
FSC	109	2	74	7
Prison Service	31,715	280	6477	1,014
Total	37,306	326	11,364	1,992

The breakdown by grade of non-industrial staff was as follows:

Prison service staff: Administrative and other staff shown by grade equivalent. Prison service grades shown separately

Grade level equivalents	(a) Male		(b) Female	
	(i) Full-time	(ii) Part-time	(i) Full-time	(ii) Part-time
Administrative grades				
Grade 1	0	0	0	0
Grade 2[1]	0	0	0	0
Grade 3[1]	0	0	0	0
Grade 4	9	0	2	0
Grade 5	53	0	9	8
Grade 6	98	5	14	0
Grade 7	132	86	17	4
Senior Executive Officer	332	97	71	25
Highest Executive Officer	373	1	244	15
Executive Officer	1,413	6	885	56
Administrative Officer	529	15	1,512	329
Administrative Assistant	1,672	38	853	457
Total	4,611	248	3,536	886

Prison service staff: Administrative and other staff shown by grade equivalent. Prison service grades shown separately

Grade level equivalents	(a) Male		(b) Female	
	(i) Full-time	(ii) Part-time	(i) Full-time	(ii) Part-time
Prison service grades				
Gov 1	45	0	2	0
Gov 2	72	0	5	0
Gov 3	111	0	16	0
Gov 4	282	0	41	0
Gov 5	395	0	23	0
Gov 5 (APS)	25	0	10	0
Principal Officer	1,265	0	46	0
Principal Officer (APS)	29	1	22	0
Senior Officer	3,369	0	169	1
Prison Officer	17,320	20	2,016	22
Prison Aux	1,499	3	354	12
Total	24,412	24	2,703	35
Grand total	29,023	272	6,241	921

[1] Posts at these levels are centrally managed and the staff concerned are included within the figures for Home Office staff.

Home Office staff by grade equivalents (including agencies other than the prison service)

Grade level equivalents	(a) Male		(b) Female	
	(i) Full-time	(ii) Part-time	(i) Full-time	(ii) Part-time
Grade 1	1	0	0	0
Grade 2	7	0	0	0
Grade 3	24	0	4	0
Grade 4	7	0	0	0
Grade 5	61	2	10	5
Grade 6	76	0	9	4
Grade 7	354	0	106	20
Senior Executive Officer	475	3	123	31
Higher Executive Officer	948	2	413	91
Executive Officer	2,081	13	1,487	227
Administrative Officer	786	14	1,565	302
Administrative Assistant	675	11	1,171	295
Total	5,495	45	4,888	974

Prisoners (Repatriation)

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans there are for arranging to transfer prisoners held in the United Kingdom, who are Irish citizens, to serve out their sentences in the Irish Republic under the convention on the transfer of sentenced persons. [35585]

Miss Widdecombe: The United Kingdom ratified the Council of Europe convention on the transfer of sentenced persons in 1985. The Republic of Ireland has not ratified the convention and repatriation of prisoners between the two jurisdictions is not therefore possible.

Metropolitan Police (Uniforms)

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what are the current costs of police uniforms in the Metropolis; how many officers are involved; and if he will make a statement. [33727]

Mr. Maclean: I understand from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis that the current cost of a standard police uniform is £500 plus VAT. All 27,909 officers in

the Metropolitan police are issued with a uniform: 23,900 are assigned to uniformed duties.

Wrongful Convictions

Mr. Maclennan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to increase the number of personnel engaged in work relating to allegations of wrongful conviction. [35725]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The relevant section of the Department deals with allegations of wrongful conviction and with other casework elated to miscarriages of justice. Staffing levels are kept under review in the light of work load, which may fluctuate. There are currently 20 staff engaged on this work and the number is expected shortly to rise to 23.

Asylum Seekers

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 26 June, *Official Report,* column *491,* how many of those applying for asylum upon arrival at Waterloo station since 1 January have subsequently withdrawn their asylum applications and made a voluntary departure from the United Kingdom. [35757]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Of the 173 principal applications for asylum received from people arriving at Waterloo station during the period 1 January to 19 June 1995, as at 17 July six had withdrawn their applications and departed from the United Kingdom prior to a decision being made.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 4 July, *Official Report, columns* 284–86, how many of those asylum seekers detained under Immigration Act powers and held in criminal prisons are held in such accommodation because their current behaviour or past history indicates that they require a greater level of control or medical observation than can be provided in immigration service detention accommodation. [35758]

Mr. Baker: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State or the Home Department to what extent the number of asylum seekers detained under Immigration Act powers has changed in the past 12 months. [35751]

Mr. Baker: Comparable information for the last 12 months is not available. However, the available information is that, as at 3 July 1995, 690 people who had sought asylum at some stage were detained, compared with 616 people as at 31 May 1994.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 26 June, *Official Report,* column *405,* what progress was made at the Justice and Home Affairs Council held on 20 to 21 June on the draft resolution on minimum guarntees for asylum procedures. [35759]

Mr. Baker: The resolution on minimum guarantees for asylum procedures was adopted at the Justice and Home Affairs Council held on 20 to 21 June.

C3 Division

Mr. Maclennan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received about delays in the processing of cases with C3 division. [35724]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Representations about the handling of cases including the time taken to examine them are made from time to time, usually by petitioners or their representatives in relation to a particular case.

Detainees

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the average weekly cost of holding an Immigration Act detainee in the temporary immigration detention centre at Gatwick airport. [35756]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The average weekly cost is approximately £580 per detainee.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report,* column *284,* how much of the total cost of detaining persons under Immigration Act powers his Department expects to reclaim from carriers in the current financial year. [35754]

Mr. Baker: It is forecast that £1.3 million will be reclaimed from carriers in the current financial year in respect of the cost of detaining and escorting people under Immigration Act powers.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 5 July, *Official Report,* column *284,* what his Department expects the notional cost of holding Immigration Act detainees in *(a)* Prison Service accommodation and *(b)* police cells to be in the current financial year. [35753]

Mr. Baker: The notional cost of detaining people in Prison Service accommodation is £411 per week, excluding departmental overheads. The estimated notional cost of using Prison Service accommodation for the financial year 1995–96 is approximately £9 million.

It is not possible to forecast accurately the extent to which it will be necessary to use police cells for detention under Immigration Act powers during the current financial year. The intention remains to keep the use of police cells to a minimum and the increase in the number of places available with the immigration service detention estate will have an important part to play in this.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Coventry, North–East (Mr. Ainsworth), of 5 July, *Official Report,* column *284,* which companies have provided short-term accommodation for Immigration Act detainees; where this accommodation is situated; how much each company is paid per detainee place per 24-hour stay; and how many detainee nights were spent in this accommodation in each of the past five years. [34537]

Mr. Baker: Private companies which provided short-term accommodation for Immigration Act detainees in the financial year 1994–95, together with their locations, are Maritime and Aviation Security, Newhaven and Harwich; Port of Felixstowe, Hoverspeed, Dover; and

Stena Sealink, Newhaven. It is not possible to discover, except at disproportionate cost, how many detainee nights were spent in this accommodation in any of the past five years.

Information about the cost of detention by private companies is commercially sensitive.

Mrs. Roche: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the expected total cost to his Department of building the planned new detention centres, for persons held under Immigration Act powers, at *(a)* Gatwick airport, *(b)* Manchester airport, *(c)* Stansted airport and *(d)* Heathrow airport. [35755]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The cost of building the new detention centres at Gatwick and Manchester airports has been borne by the private sector. It is anticipated that the further planned accommodation will be provided in the same way. There will therefore be no capital cost to the Department, which will instead pay rental charges. These are commercially sensitive.

Mr. Colin Ivor Dunning

Mr. Maclennan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he instructed the Metropolitan police to undertake inquiries requested by solicitors acting for Colin Ivor Dunning. [35722]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: Officials in my Department wrote to the Metropolitan police on 16 December 1994. Further information received from Mr. Dunning's solicitors was passed on to the police by facsimile transmission on 16 May 1995.

Mr. Maclennan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to give a decision on the case of Mr. Colin Ivor Dunning. [35726]

Mr. Baker: The police report into Mr. Dunning's case was received in the Department last month. Further information was provided by Mr. Dunning's solicitors on 17 July. A decision about the case will be reached as soon as possible.

Mr. Maclennan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he received an application for the case of Mr. Colin Ivor Dunning to be referred to the Court of Appeal under the provisions of section 17 of the Criminal Appeals Act 1968. [35721]

Mr. Baker: Representations were received from Mr. Dunning's solicitors on 3 February 1994.

Mr. Maclennan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the questions put in the letter dated 26th May, from solicitors acting for Mr. Colin Ivor Dunning. [35723]

Mr. Baker: A reply will be sent very soon.

Female Employees

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the number of staff employed at administration grades and the number and percentage of these staff that are women, in his Department and each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [35664]

Mr. Howard: The information is not available in the form requested but details by grade and gender for the Department as a whole, including executive agencies, can be found in table 5 of "Civil Service Statistics" for each year from 1985 to 1994—copies are available in the Library. Details for 1995 will be published later this year.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35675]

Mr. Howard: The Home Office is committed to the implementation of the Office of Public Service and Science programme for action to achieve equality of opportunity for women in the civil service. In line with the programme, the Department monitors regularly the number of women in each grade, their annual report markings and their performance on promotion boards. Career breaks, flexible working arrangements and subsidised child care are available to assist women who want to combine work with domestic responsibilities. The Home Office is also a founder member of Opportunity 2000, which aims to increase opportunities for women and promote the achievement of a balanced work force.

Criminal Justice Act 1993

Mr. Darling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects part I of the Criminal Justice Act 1993 to come into force; and if he will make a statement. [35679]

Mr. Maclean: We are considering the practicabilities of bringing into force the provisions of part I of the Criminal Justice Act 1993.

Court Buildings (Security)

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect on the security of court buildings will result from the Home Office scrutiny of police duties; and if he will make a statement [35737]

Mr. Maclean: The recommendations of the recent efficiency scrutiny, which examiend the administrative burdens on the police in the context of their role in the criminal justice system, are still under consideration.

Mr. Boateng: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision was taken, and by whom, to end the police presence at Liverpool combined court centre; when that decision was implemented; how many complaints have been made about that decision; and what security incidents have taken place since that decision was implemented. [35742]

Mr. Maclean: Decisions regarding the level of policing in public places, for example the Crown court, are operational matters for the chief officer of the force concerned.

Young Offenders

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the number of *(a)* 16-year-olds, *(b)* 15-year-olds and *(c)* 14-year-olds held in adult prisons for more than 24 hours after being convicted of a section 53 offence under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 in each of the last five years. [36246]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Alun Michael, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question asking what was the number of *(a)* 16 year olds, *(b)* 15 year olds and *(c)* 14 year olds held in adult prisons for more than 24 hours after being convicted of a section 53 offence under the Children and Young Persons Act in each of the last five years.

The information requested is not available.

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many additional secure places he intends to provide *(a)* under the undertaking of February 1991, for 15 and 16-year-olds on remand; *(b)* for 15 and 16-year-olds on remand in addition to *(a)*, *(c)* for 15 and 16-year-olds sent to secure accommodation by a court following conviction, *(d)* for 10 to 14-year-olds on remand, *(e)* for 10 to 14-year-olds following conviction other than those sentenced to a secure training order and *(f)* for 12 to 14-year-olds made subject to a secure training order; and what timetable he has set for the provision of the secure places listed above. [36235]

Mr. Maclean: Local authority secure places are not designated for specific purposes. Places are made available, as appropriate, from within overall provision for:

children and young people placed under section 25 of the Children Act 1989.

juveniles sentenced under section 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933; and

remanded juveniles other than those 15 and 16-year-old boys remanded to a Prison Service establishment.

A building programme of 170 new secure local authority places is in hand. We expect a majority of these places to be finished in 1996. We are committed to ending the remand of 15 and 16-year-old boys to Prison Service establishments as soon as there are sufficient secure local authority places to accommodate them.

Five planned secure training centres will provide 200 places for 12 to 14-year-olds subject to a secure training order. Opening dates of the centres will depend on the terms of the contracts. A tendering process is in progress for the first two centres.

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the longest time spent in an adult prison on remand in England and Wales by *(a)* a 14-year-old, *(b)* a 15-year-old, and *(c)* a 16-year-old in the current year and in each of the last five years. [36255]

Miss Widdecombe: I will write to the hon. Member.

British Board of Film Censors

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the normal tenure for senior officials at the British Board of Film Censors; what proposals he has for changing this period; and if he will make a statement. [36182]

Mr. Maclean: The British Board of Film Classification is an independent organisation and my right hon. and learned Friend has no responsibility for its internal affairs.

Reconviction Rates

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what were the reconviction rates of juveniles, young adults and adults for *(a)* 1993 and *(b)* 1994. [36252]

Mr. Maclean: Reconviction rates for 1993 and 1994 are not yet available. Information for 1991 and earlier years is given in chapter 10 of "Prison Statistics England and Wales 1993" and in chapter 11 of "Probation Statistics England and Wales 1993", copies of which are available in the Library.

Prisoners (Disciplinary Offences)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have been placed on report for disciplinary offences from 1 September 1994 to 30 June 1995 at *(a)* the Wolds, *(b)* Blakenhurst, *(c)* Doncaster and *(d)* Buckley Hall prisons. [36157]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Doug Hoyle, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the number of prisoners placed on report for disciplinary offences from 1 September 1994 to 30 June 1995 at the Wolds, Blakenhurst, Doncaster and Buckley Hall prisons.

The available information is for the number of adjudication charges heard during this period and is shown in the attached table.

Adjudication charges heard 1 September 1994 to 30 June 1995[1]

	Number
The Wolds	682
Blakenhurst	1,655
Doncaster	3,036
Buckley Hall[2]	169

[1] Provisional

[2] Opened December 1994.

Church of Scientology

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will institute an investigation into the effects on young people in the United Kingdom of the Church of Scientology; and if he will make a statement. [35868]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The Government have no plans for an inquiry.

Video Classifications

Mr. Alton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultations have taken place with the video industry about retrospective review of video classifications; how the review will take place; when he expects to bring forward an order setting out statutory arrangements for the review before the House; and if he will make a statement. [36097]

Mr. Maclean: We have had extensive consultations with the video industry about the proposed arrangements for reviewing previously classified videos. My right hon. and learned Friend hopes shortly to make an order under section 90 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 setting out the practical arrangements.

Former Prison Service Staff

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list by company the number of ex-Prison Service personnel who now work for private prison and escort contractors, the dates on which they joined, and their present duties with those companies. [36200]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Doug Hoyle, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the number of former Prison Service personnel who now work for companies running contractually managed prisons and court escort services, the dates on which they joined and their present duties with those companies.

Much of the information requested is unavailable centrally, as it is for the contractors to recruit, train and employ their own staff.

Under the terms of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the directors of contractually managed prisons have to be approved by the Home Secretary. The Directors of Blankenhurst, Buckley Hall, Doncaster and Wolds prisons were all previously employed by the Prison Service.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has been the cost to the Prison Service of training staff who have left the Prison Service to join private prison and escort contractors. [36201]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Doug Hoyle, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Questions about the cost to the Prison Service of training staff who have left the Prison Service join private prisons and escort contractors.

The information requested is not available as we do not, in general, record details of the jobs subsequently taken by staff who have resigned or retired from the prison Service. Staff below grade 3 level are only required to seek approval for outside employment in certain specified circumstances, for a period of two years after leaving Crown employment.

Crime Statistics

Sir Ralph Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the change in reported crimes of vandalism and theft between 1979 and 1994. [36307]

Mr. Maclean: The available information is in terms of notifiable offences of criminal damage and theft recorded by the police in England and Wales and is contained in the following table:

Number of offences	*Year*		*Change*	
	1979[1]	*1994*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Criminal damage	320,469	928,127	+607,658	+190
Theft and handling stolen goods	1,416,143	2,559,023	+1,142,880	+81

[1] Figures for 1979 are not strictly comparable with those for later years because of changes to improve the consistency of recording multiple, continuous and repeated offences.

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the total number of offences recorded in England and Wales in 1993 and 1994 in total and for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* burglary, *(e)* fraud and forgery, *(f)* criminal damage, *(g)* theft from the person, *(h)* theft from a shop, *(i)* theft of motor vehicle, *(j)* theft from motor vehicle, (k) theft of a pedal cycle, *(l)* handling and *(m)* other theft. [36250]

Mr. Maclean: The information requested is available in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 5/95 "Notifiable Offences, England and Wales 1994", copies of which are available in the Library.

Blue Police Boxes

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the locations of the remaining in-situ blue police boxes. [35954]

Mr. Maclean: This information is not held centrally.

Super Maximum Security Prison

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department has had with private prison contractors or consultants regarding a future super maximum security prison; and if he will make a statement. [36195]

Miss Widdecombe: No such discussions have taken place.

Police Cautions

Mr. Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many local authority areas help and advice is provided to young people *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* over 18 years who are cautioned; and if he will provide comparable information for each of the last three years. [36267]

Mr. Maclean: The information requested is not available.

Firearms

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what restrictions there are on private individuals in possession of a valid firearms licence bringing guns bought abroad into the United Kingdom. [36128]

Mr. Maclean: Prior authorisation for the purchase of the firearm in question, noted on the firearm certificate by the local chief officer of police, is required. Where the firearm is purchased in another EC state, a transfer licence is required. If the firearm is imported from outside the EC, it is necessary to satisfy the import licensing controls administered by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Homicide

Dame Jill Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government intend to respond to the report of the Home Affairs Select Committee on the year and a day rule in homicide. [36344]

Mr. Howard: We have today published our response to the report of the Home Affairs Select Committee. Copies of the response are available in the Vote Office.

We agree with the Committee that the year and a day rule should be abolished. This will entail difficult decisions for prosecutors in some cases, and we have decided that the consent of the Attorney-General should be required for a homicide prosecution where either the defendant has previously been convicted of another offence for the injury which resulted in death, or there has been an interval of three years or more between the injury and death.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the total amount of funding given by central Government Departments to voluntary bodies in the financial year 1993–94; and if he will make a statement. [36345]

Mr. Howard: Central Government funding of voluntary organisations in 1993–94 amounted to £3,567 million. Of this, £2,955 million was payments to housing associations and £612 million went directly to voluntary organisations to support the provision of services and a wide range of activities and projects. This latter figure shows that Government funding of the voluntary sector excluding housing associations increased in cash terms by 9 per cent. and in real terms by 5 per cent. over the level of provision in 1992–93.

The amount spent by each Department in 1993–94 was as follows:

	£
Attorney General's Office (Crown Prosecution Service)	
Direct grants	20,000
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	
Direct grants	242,500
Defence	
Direct grants	18,919,259
Education	
Direct grants	5,907,649
Employment	
Direct grants	50,057,200
Equal Opportunities Commission	38,108
Environment	
Direct grants	27,981,147
Countryside Commission	4,178,000
English Nature	804,183
Housing Corporations	2,510,000,000
Rural Development Commission	4,743,870
Urban Development Corporations	11,036,000
Urban Programme	28,305,927
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	
Direct grants	3,594,248
Health	
Direct grants	49,433,555
Alcohol and drug misuse	2,300,000
Health Education Authority	1,250,000
Home Office	
Direct grants	59,204,588
Commission for Racial Equality	5,213,000
Lord Chancellor's Department	
Direct grants	182,500
Legal Aid Board	942,052
National Heritage	
Direct grants	832,420
Sports Council	20,218,645
Northern Ireland Office	
Direct grants	19,764,035
Housing associations	49,292,631
Sports Council for Northern Ireland	728,484
Youth Council for Northern Ireland	1,421,339
Overseas Development Administration	
Direct grants	158,499,755
Scottish Office	
Direct grants	24,230,855
Highland and Islands Enterprise	1,075,000
Housing associations	273,302,000
Mental Illness Specific Grant	5,141,834
Scottish Arts Council	176,164
Scottish National Heritage	2,900,000
Sports Council for Scotland	1,897,932
Urban Programme	48,062,000
Social Security	
Direct grants	13,109,895
Trade and Industry	
Direct grants	14,434,830
Transport	
Direct grants	422,000
Welsh Office	
Direct grants	14,070,944
Cardiff Bay Development Corporation	285,000
Development Board for Rural Wales	575,093
Flexible Community Care	1,602,508
Housing for Wales (Tai Cymru)	122,082,000
Rural Initiative	1,705,984

	£
Sports Council for Wales	1,645,080
Urban Programme	4,631,691
Wales Tourist Board	287,140
Welsh Development Agency	398,000
Grand total	3,567,097,045

These figures have been collected and presented as far as possible on the same basis as the 1992–93 figures. We intend to review the way in which the data are collected and presented before announcing Government funding of the voluntary sector in 1994–95.

I shall shortly be placing in the Library a list of voluntary bodies funded by the Government in 1993–94, other than those funded under housing programmes and the urban programme or via non-departmental public bodies.

European Parliamentary Constituencies

Mr. Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Boundary Commission has to conduct a supplementary review of European parliamentary constituencies in Wales. [36396]

Mr. Howard: The commission has informed me that it intends to consider making a supplementary report on the European parliamentary constituencies in Wales, and to commence forthwith a general review of the European parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

Metropolitan Police Committee

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what grounds the Metropolitan Police Committee meets in private; and if he will make a statement. [35183]

Mr. Maclean: I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Mrs. Roche) on 3 July, *Official Report*, column *26*. Policy advice to Ministers is confidential.

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list all the members of the Metropolitan Police Committee; how they were chose; and what were their attributes and qualifications for being appointed to the committee; [35054]

(2) if he will make public *(a)* all the recommendations of the Metropolitan Police Committee and *(b)* whether they have been accepted or rejected. [35055]

Mr. Maclean: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 9 February to my hon. Friend the Member for East Hampshire (Mr. Mates), *Official Report*, columns *382–83*; to the answer I gave on 20 February to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Mrs. Roche), *Official Report*, column *19*; and to the answer I gave on 3 July to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green, *Official Report*, column *26*.

Child Abuse (Witnesses)

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to introduce legislation addressing the treatment of child witnesses in cases of child abuse. [35323]

Mr. Maclean: We have no present plans to amend the law in this area. We are, however, currently considering the evaluation of the child evidence provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 which was carried out by Professor Graham Davies.

Abdul Qayyum Raja

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if prisoner Abdul Qayyum Raja, C43848, Her Majesty's prison, Long Lartin, has been given full access to all reports which presently determine his status as a category A prisoner; [35286]

(2) for what reasons the status of prisoner Abdul Qayyum Raja, C43848, Her Majesty's prison, Long Lartin remains category A; and when he expects this status will change. [35285]

Mrs. Widdecombe: Responsibility for these matters has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Roger Godsiff, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Questions about Mr. Abdul Qayyum Raja, a category A prisoner at Long Lartin prison.

It is not the policy of the Prison Service to provide prisoners or their representatives with copies of reports prepared for the purposes of security category reviews. In accordance with the High Court judgement, in December 1993, in the case of Regina v. the Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex-parte Duggan, a prisoner is, subject to any necessary exceptions arising out of public interest immunity, informed of the gist of any matter of fact and/or opinion relevant to the determination of his security category; and given reasons for any decision which results in him remaining as a category A prisoner.

Mr. Raja's security category was reviewed by the category A Committee on 21 June. The Committee's recommendations will shortly be submitted to the Prison Service Director of Security for consideration. Mr. Raja will be informed of the outcome as soon as practicable. His security category was previously reviewed in October last year when it was decided that he should remain as a category A prisoner. Mr. Raja was provided with the reasons for that decision.

Public Houses (Children's Certificates)

Mr. Hawksley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his Department's monitoring of conditions being imposed by magistrates when issuing children's certificates. [35333]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: We hope to complete our assessment of evidence of concerns about the operation of the system of children's certificates by the early autumn.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what action his Department is taking to support the restrictions on smoking associated with children's certificates in pubs granted by magistrates; [35020]

(2) what guidelines his Department has issued to magistrates regarding the issuing of children's certificates in pubs and restrictions on smoking. [35065]

Mr. Baker: It would not be proper for us to seek to intervene in the exercise by the licensing justices of their statutory discretion to attach specific conditions to the

grant of children's certificates, whether as to smoking or on other matters.

Prisoners (Northern Ireland Residents)

Mr. Beggs: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons normally resident in Northern Ireland are currently serving sentences in prisons in Great Britain. [35592]

Mrs. Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Roy Beggs, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question asking how many persons normally resident in Northern Ireland are currently serving sentences in prisons in Great Britain.

No information is available centrally for England and Wales regarding a person's place of residence before being committed to custody. Information for Scotland may possibly be obtained from the Scottish Office.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Ms Roseanna Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when section 117 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 will be brought into effect. [35326]

Mr. Maclean: There are no plans to bring into force any of the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 relating to the criminal injuries compensation scheme.

Clause 11 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill currently before Parliament will repeal sections 108 to 117 of, and schedules 6 and 7 to, the 1988 Act. Clause 7 of the Bill will, however, introduce a provision similar to section 117 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

Prisons (Fire Prevention)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date a fire prevention survey last took place in each prison in England and Wales. [34762]

Mrs. Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question asking the date a fire prevention survey last took place in each prison in England and Wales.

Fire prevention surveys have been carried out in most prisons by local fire brigades as part of their familiarisation procedures. These surveys may be of a part or all of the establishment.

The Prison Service Fire Safety Section was formed in 1992 and fire safety advisers from the section paid preliminary visits to all establishments. A total of 52 prisons have subsequently received comprehensive fire prevention inspections and reports prepared and distributed to relevant departments.

The dates of the last fire brigade survey and Fire Safety Section inspections are set out in the attached table.

Establishment	*Date of last survey by local fire brigade*	*Date of prison service fire safety section survey*
Acklington	10 February 1989	May 1994
Albany	—	—
Aldington	5 January 1987	August 1993
Ashwell	—	—
Askham Grange	9 December 1988	—
Aylesbury	14 December 1989	—
Bedford	19 June 1989	—
Belmarsh	—	—
Birmingham	23 May 1989	—
Blakenhurst	—	June 1993
Blantyre House	7 March 1989	April 1994
Blundeston	1 November 1988	—
Brinsford	—	—
Bristol	27 February 1986	—
Brixton	1 June 1987	June 1993
Brockhill	1 June 1986	December 1993
Buckley Hall	—	—
Bullingdon	—	—
Bullwood Hall	—	July 1993
Camp Hill	3 May 1989	—
Canterbury	1 April 1986	February 1994
Cardiff	31 January 1989	February 1993
Castington	8 March 1988	September 1994
Channings Wood	10 November 1989	—
Chelmsford	6 January 1989	—
Coldingley	—	April 1993
Cookham Wood	9 May 1989	July 1995
Dartmoor	1 October 1991	September 1994
Deerbolt	18 January 1989	July 1995
Doncaster	—	—
Dorchester	5 December 1988	—
Dover	—	—
Downview	—	—
Drakehall	11 April 1988	—
Durham	15 May 19989	—
East Sutton Park	1 March 1990	July 1995
Eastwood Park	24 July 1990	—
Elmley	—	—
Erlestoke	27 June 1988	—
Everthorpe	23 June 1989	March 1994
Exeter	16 September 1991	March 1993
Featherstone	—	—
Feltham	25 May 1989	—
Finnamore Wood	1 June 1989	—
Ford	2 May 1989	March 1994
Frankland	7 July 1988	January 1993
Full Sutton	5 October 1988	March 1994
Garth	18 November 1988	April 1993
Gartree	10 April 1989	February 1993
Glen Parva	11 August 1989	June 1994
Gloucester	1 November 1986	—
Grendon	17 October 1991	—
Guys Marsh	7 January 1987	—
Haslar	8 September 1989	—
Hatfield	14 June 1989	—
Haverigg	1 January 1990	—
Hewell Grange	26 September 1990	—
Highdown	—	—
Highpoint	25 July 1990	—
Hindley	9 August 1988	February 1995
Hollesley Bay	—	August 1994
Holloway	—	January 1994
Holme House	—	—
Hull	5 May 1989	June 1993
Huntercombe	—	June 1993
Kingston	17 August 1988	—
Kirkham	31 October 1985	—
Kirklevington	1 November 1990	—
Lancaster	23 January 1989	—
Lancaster Farms	—	—
Latchmere House	—	December 1994
Leeds	12 August 1991	—

Establishment	Date of last survey by local fire brigade	Date of prison service fire safety section survey
Leicester	1 April 1989	March 1993
Lewes	5 June 1989	—
Leyhill	—	—
Lincoln	29 March 1989	—
Lindholme	10 October 1991	—
Littlehey	—	—
Liverpool	4 November 1987	—
Long Lartin	29 April 1989	—
Low Newton	—	—
Maidstone	—	—
Manchester	9 March 1989	—
Moorland	—	—
Morton Hall	—	—
The Mount	1987	—
New Hall	8 December 1988	March 1995
Northallerton	12 April 1988	—
Northeye	27 November 1989	—
North Sea Camp	19 April 1990	—
Norwich	—	September 1992
Nottingham	1 May 1990	—
Onley	23 October 1987	—
Oxford	—	January 1994
Parkhurst	8 November 1988	September 1994
Pentonville	—	—
Portland	—	June 1993
Preston	13 April 1987	May 1993
Pucklechurch	28 September 1988	—
Ranby	—	August 1994
Reading	9 January 1990	—
Risley	13 January 1987	September 1993
Rochester	1 May 1987	—
Rudgate	1 October 1986	July 1993
Send	1 December 1989	March 1993
Shepton Mallet	28 November 1989	—
Shrewsbury	10 January 1989	—
Stafford	18 April 1988	—
Standford Hill	2 September 1988	—
Stocken	10 April 1989	February 1993
Stoke Heath	3 October 1988	—
Styal	6 November 1986	March 1993
Sudbury/Foston Hall	—	September 1994
Swaleside	11 July 1988	—
Swansea	22 February 1990	—
Swinfen Hall	—	—
Thorn Cross	——	February 1994
Thorp Arch	19 December 1989	—
Usk/Prescoed	—	March 1994
The Verne	31 October 1990	—
Wakefield	9 April 1986	October 1993
Wandsworth	—	December 1994
Wayland	14 August 1990	—
Wellingborough	13 April 1987	February 1993
Werrington	23 December 1987	July 1995
Wetherby	1 October 1986	December 1994
Whatton	10 November 1989	July 1994
Whitemoor	—	—
Winchester	9 August 1985	January 1993
The Wolds	—	—
Woodhill	—	—
Wormwood Scrubs	24 May 1991	—
Wymott	14 March 1988	—

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time qualified fire officers are employed at each prison in England and Wales. [34761]

Mrs. Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary of has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the number of full-time qualified fire officers employed at each prison in England and Wales.

There are no fire officers holding recognised fire safety qualifications employed on a full-time basis in prisons in England and Wales. All prison governors are however required to appoint a fire officer, the majority of these having part-time duties in relation to fire safety.

Prison fire officers are required to attend an approved fire brigade training course on fire awareness.

The Prison Service also has a Fire Safety Section comprising a senor fire safety adviser and three area fire advisers all holding statutory and professional qualifications. This section advises the Prison Service on all fire matters and carries out full fire prevention surveys.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his Department available to the public via the Government World Wide Web server known as "www.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34679]

Mr. Howard: My Department has used the World Wide Web server known as "www.open.gov.uk" since March 1995 to publish some summary statistics about crime and the criminal justice system, and information about statistical publications. Home Office press notices, and those of the national criminal intelligence service and the Police Complaints Authority, are made available on the Internet via a linked server provided by the Central Office of Information since April 1995. Consideration is currently being given to what further information about the work of the Home Office might be published on the Internet.

Stops and Searches

Mr. Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the total people stopped and searched by the police during the 12 months from April 1994 to March 1995 in each police force in England, Wales and Scotland were *(a)* white, *(b)* black, *(c)* Asian, *(d)* of other ethnic origin and *(e)* of unknown ethnic origin. [34751]

Mr. Maclean: At present, information collated on stops and searches distinguishes only between white and ethnic minority persons. Statistics for 1994–95 are not yet available.

I understand that in Scotland there are no common procedures for monitoring the ethnic origin of those people stopped and searched by the police.

Knives

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has been the number of convictions in magistrates courts governing the Greater London area over the carrying of a knife as an offensive weapon in the first six months of 1995. [34764]

Mr. Maclean: Information on 1995 court proceedings data will not be available until autumn 1996.

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the results of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34700]

Mr. Howard: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the United Kingdom economy. The Government continue to help smaller companies by keeping inflation and interest rates low and by reducing legislative, administrative and taxation burdens. They also provide direct assistance where appropriate. The White Paper announced in May 1995 outlines a programme of measures to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

Since July 1994, the Home Office has demonstrated its continued commitment to helping small businesses by deregulating across a wide range of areas affecting business. Steps taken have included:

Shopping hours: restrictions on shopping hours have been relaxed through the implementation of the Sunday Trading Act 1994 and by removing restrictions on weekday shopping hours.

Liquor licensing: accompanied children under 14 are now allowed into the bars of suitable licensed premises and we have introduced the Licensing (Sunday Hours) Bill to abolish the compulsory afternoon break in Sunday licensing hours.

Gambling: provision has been made for Sunday racing with on-and off- course betting; some of the restrictions on betting offices have been removed; the maximum prize in the national bingo game has been increased from £75,000 to £250,000; and the first use has been made of the deregulation order-making power with a view to relaxing the rules on greyhound racing.

Charities: close attention has been paid to the recommendations of the charities and voluntary organisations task force and to comments received during consultation on the draft regulations and other intended provisions, for example new controls on fund-raising—which was brought into force 1 March 1995—and charity accounting—intended to be brought into force 1 March 1996.

Other areas: we have also removed the prohibition on admission charges to sporting events and activities on Sundays, and introduced a draft deregulation order permitting charging for public dancing on a Sunday.

The Government's White Paper on competitiveness in May 1995 set out some of our proposals for the further use of the deregulation order-making power and enforcement powers. The Government hope to be in a position soon to announce their views following the inter-departmental scrutiny of fire safety Legislation and enforcement.

Much of the deregulatory work undertaken in the past year in the Home Office has taken forward work which had been started in the previous 12 months. This had included the introduced of the Sunday Trading Bill, simplifying various aspects of the law on gambling, and the introduction of a range of measures in the Deregulation and Contracting Out Bill, including proposals for a system of children's certificates in licensed premises, changes in weekday shopping hours, changes to the law in charities and to enable betting on Sundays.

Other work undertaken by the Home Office which benefits small businesses includes crime prevention and assisting firms who wish to bid for Home Office business.

On crime prevention, we have continued to help small businesses to protect themselves against crime. In January this year, the Retail Action Group, the sub-group of the National Board for Crime Prevention—a non-departmental public body—published guides for shopkeepers on preventing robbery and burglary. Similar guides on preventing customer theft, violence to staff and external fraud will be published in due course. The Home Office crime prevention unit has published a research paper entitled "Crime on Industrial Estates", which incudes an assessment of the relevant security measures that are available.

On procurement, the Home Office gives encouragement and assistance to small businesses wherever possible. To that end, we provide potential suppliers to the Department with the booklet "Selling to the Home Office", which details the Department's purchasing needs and gives specific contact points for initial approaches. A central contact point is also available. The Home Office does not, however, hold detailed information on the volume of business placed with small firms.

On performance indicators, over 30 Home Office regulations which have an impact on business have been identified as possible candidates for amendment or repeal.

Prisoners (Families)

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is his policy on keeping prisoners in suitable accommodation as close to their families as possible; and what are the exceptions to that policy. [34018]

Mrs. Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tony Worthington, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about the policy on keeping prisoners in suitable accommodation as close to their families as possible and the exceptions to that policy.

The 1991 White Paper "Custody, Care and Justice" confirmed the Prison Service's commitment to preparing prisoners for release by providing opportunities where practicable for prisoners to maintain links with their families. The White Paper also endorsed the principle of holding prisoners as close to their homes as possible, subject to consideration of their status, security category, behaviour and sentence needs.

The Prison Service continues to adhere to this policy although, although the pressure of numbers often makes this difficult. The Service's plans for the development of the prison estate are directed to providing a better match between accommodation needs and provision in each area of the country, and to providing greater flexibility in the use of accommodation.

Northern Ireland Peace Process

Mr. Worthington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution his Department has made or proposes to make to the Northern Ireland peace process. [34021]

Mr. Howard: Government policy towards Northern Ireland is co-ordinated by the Northern Ireland Office. My Department in common with other Departments, contributes as necessary according to its departmental responsibilities.

Prisoners (Home Leave)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what policy exists within the Prison Service for training and advice for home leave by prison inmates. [34080]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for this matter has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Question about policy on training and advice for home leave.

Following the Home Secretary's announcement on 18 November last year the existing arrangements for home leave and temporary release have been replaced by a new system of release on temporary licence, which came into effect on 25 April.

Before its implementation, an Instruction to Governors (36/1995) setting out detailed guidance on the operation of the new scheme was issued to all establishments. A copy of this Instruction is in the Library of the House.

In addition, a series of fifteen regional training seminars, were held for representatives from all prisons. These were also attended by representatives of local police and probation services. Those attending the seminars were provided with training material suitable for other members of staff in their organisations.

There are three helpline telephone numbers in operation at Prison Service Headquarters to give advice and assistance on the new policy to prison staff, as well as the police and probation services. A pocket handbook on the new scheme for prison staff is now being prepared for distribution.

Prisoners (Ages)

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the age of the oldest *(a)* man and *(b)* woman prison inmate being held in a prison in England and Wales; what sentences they are serving; and what period of those sentences have now been served. [34078]

Mrs. Widdecombe: I will write to the hon. Member.

Penile Plethysmograph Tests

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, (1) if he will list the Prison Service establishments at which the equipment is available for conducting penile plethysmograph tests; [32249]

(2) how many plethysmograph tests have been carried out in Prison Service establishments *(a)* during 1994 and *(b)* during 1995 to the latest convenient date; [32250]

(3) under what circumstances a prisoner not convicted of a sexual offence or with a spent conviction for such an offence may be made to take a penile plethysmograph test; on how many occasions this has occurred; and what right of appeal prisoners have against such decisions. [32248]

Miss Widdecombe: Responsibility for these matters has been delegated to the Director General of the Prison Service, who has been asked to arrange for a reply to be given.

Letter from Derek Lewis to Mr. George Howarth, dated 19 July 1995:

The Home Secretary has asked me to reply to your recent Questions about Penile Plethysmograph (PPG) testing.

PPG is one element in the comprehensive process of assessment which precedes the Sex Offender Treatment Programme. Prisoners who are believed to present a risk of future sex offending may be asked to participate in assessment so that appropriate treatment can be offered to them, but their participation is voluntary. No prisoners have been or would be forced to participate.

Concern about the risk of future sex offending is normally based on the nature of the offence for which the offender is serving a prison sentence. This might be either a conviction for a sexual offence or for a murder which involved a sexual element. Previous convictions are also taken into account as these are known to be predictive of future sexual offending.

During the financial year ending 31 March 1995, 103 prisoners took the PPG test. Of these, there were 10 prisoners who had not been convicted of a sex offence but who were thought to pose a risk of future sexual offending for other reasons.

The following establishments have the equipment available for conducting PPG tests: Albany, Dartmoor, Full Sutton, Leyhill, Maidstone, Swinfen Hall, Wakefield, Wandsworth and Whitemoor.

Terrorist Prisoners

Mr. Madden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 12 July, *Official Report*, column *594*, if he will list the names of the five life prisoners convicted for terrorist offences to whom he referred. [35602]

Mrs. Widdecombe *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* The five life sentence prisoners convicted for terrorist offences referred to in my answer of 12 July are: Sean Kinsella, Brendan Dowd, Stephen Nordonne, Paul Norney and Noel Gibson.

Competitive Tendering

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if competitive tendering in the accounting, auditing and consulting professions is a policy aim of the Government in relation to charities and voluntary organisations in receipt of statutory funding. [35048]

Mr. Nicholas Baker: The Home Office looks to the voluntary sector organisations which it funds to have in place effective arrangements for all the services it requires, including accounting, audit and consultancy services. It is for the organisation concerned to decide whether it is appropriate to proceed by way of competitive tendering in obtaining these services.

NATIONAL HERITAGE

National Museums and Galleries

Mr. Andrew Faulds: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if he will publish the attendance figures

for the financial year ended 31 March reported by the national museums and galleries for which he is responsible, broken down into the individual institutions, but including their outstations, with figures in each case of the percentage increase or decrease on the attendance figures for the preceding year. [16754]

Mr. Sproat *[pursuant to the reply, 3 April 1995, Official Report, columns 939–41]:* I list the actual numbers of visits to the 11 national museums and galleries in England for which I am responsible for the financial year ended 31 March 1995.

	Number of visits in 1993–94 (million)	*Number of visits in 1994–95 (million)*	*Percentage increase /decrease over the previous year*
British Museum	6.03	6.24	+3.5
Imperial War Museum	1.19	1.27	+6.7
National Gallery	4.02	4.36	8.5
National Maritime Museum	0.53	0.62	+17
National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside	1.34	1.34	—
National Portrait Gallery	0.79	0.95	+20
National History Museum	1.74	1.64	–5.7
National Museum of Science and Industry	2.67	2.51	–6
Tate Gallery	2.74	2.75	+0.4
Victoria and Albert Museum	1.58	1.60	+1.3
Wallace Collection	0.15	0.15	—
Total	22.78	23.43	2.8

It is not possible to identify the number of visits to the royal armouries because it at present forms part of the Tower of London.

Sport

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what information she has about the financing of sport in other advanced countries. [36218]

Mr. Sproat: Comprehensive information on the financing of sport in other countries is not available.

Mr. Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what funds are available for improving *(a)* sports facilities, *(b)* sports equipment and *(c)* sports tuition in Southwark. [35935]

Mr. Sproat: Funding for improving sports facilities, sports equipment and sports tuition throughout the country is available from the Sports Council, Sportsmatch, and the Foundation for Sport and Arts. Capital projects are also eligible for funding from the national lottery.

Proposals in the sports policy statement, published last Friday, include increased investment in coaching for teachers with the opportunity for them to acquire coaching qualifications, a further £1 million to be provided by the Sports Council for coaching opportunities via the National Coaching Foundation and the governing bodies of sport, and a new £2 million challenge fund for promoting links between schools and clubs.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what assessment she has made of the means by which funding for mass participation in sport will be generated as a result of changes to the Sports Council; and what the main sources of income are expected to be. [34769]

Mr. Sproat: I would expect local authorities to continue to encourage sporting and recreational opportunities for the public at large as they always have done. The Sports Council is not a significant provider in this area—the main provision has always been by local authorities, with expenditure of approximately £950 million. Our aim is that the Sports Council should operate in the areas to which it is uniquely suited and can add greatest value to the overall picture. Of course, the Sports Council will consider applications to the national lottery from local authorities and others in support of projects offering a wider appeal.

Library Service

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage on what grounds the report by management consultants KPMG Peat Marwick into the Library Service has not been published; what conclusions the report reached in respect of the case for compulsory contracting out of the library service; and what is her policy in respect of these conclusions. [35449]

Mrs. Bottomley: I am publishing the report on contracting out in public libraries prepared to my Department's brief by the consultants KPMG and CPI today.

The preparation of the report involved experts from public libraries and local authorities. But I now wish to open up the issue for wider public consultation. It is important that this issue is considered in the wider context of the future direction of the public library service. So this report will clearly need to be seen in the light of other developments such as the recommendations of the Aslib review of public libraries in England and Wales—for example on what should constitute the core of a public library service. In this context I wish to make clear the Government's continuing commitment to a public library service, the core of which remains free of charge to the user.

To allow sufficient time for consideration of this detailed report, I suggest that comments reach my Department by 31 October 1995.

I should state that at this stage the Government has no firm views on the findings of the KPMG/CPI report. We will be considering them in the light of comments received, and conclusions emerging from other pieces of work such as the Aslib report. I expect to make a more detailed statement following the end of the consultation period.

I am placing a copy of the report in the Library of the House.

National Lottery

Mr. Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many national lottery tickets are

sold each week from outlets in the London borough of Newham. [35882]

Mr. Sproat: While this is an operational matter for the director general of the National Lottery, I understand that the information requested is not available.

Mr. Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) what proportion of applications for national lottery funding have come from areas of social and economic deprivation; and what plans she has to encourage such applications; [35120]

(2) pursuant to the reply of 26 June to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby, *Official Report*, column *495*, if she will analyse by category and region the applications for national lottery funding. [35218]

Mr. Sproat: Information relating to applications for national lottery funding is not held by this Department. A list of all awards made and project locations was placed in the Library of the House on 26 June. A similar report will be produced and placed in the Library of the House every month.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) if she will make a statement on the use of national lottery money for financing developments in the state sector, with particular reference to sport in schools; [36119]

(2) how much money has been provided by the lottery fund to date to provide public facilities in deprived areas. [36225]

Mr. Sproat: I regret that it has not been possible to provide an answer before summer recess. I shall therefore write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Mr. Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage, how many grants of national lottery funding have been made to date to applicants from the London borough of Newham; how much money was awarded in each case; and what proportion of the total amount of grants these grants represent. [35881]

Mr. Sproat: I regret that it has not been possible to provide an answer before the summer recess. I shall therefore write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how much money will be distributed to good causes from the national lottery in 1995; how much will go to *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland; how much is not geographically identifiable; and if she will make a statement. [34944]

Mr. Sproat: The amount distributed to good causes from the proceeds of the national lottery is dependent on the number and quality of the applications put to the eleven distributing bodies.

Lappa Valley Railway Company

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what financial support her Department has made available to Lappa Valley Railway Company since April 1992. [35849]

Mr. Sproat: I regret that it has not been possible to provide an answer before the summer recess. I shall therefore write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Female Employees

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) if she will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the number and percentages of these staff that are women, in her Department and for each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985; [35682]

(2) what measures her Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within her Department and its executive agencies. [35662]

Mr. Sproat: I regret that it has not been possible to provide an answer before the summer recess. I shall therefore write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Community Radio

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage when he expects to invite proposals for community radio stations in Southampton; and when he expects a decision to be taken on the successful applicant. [35229]

Mr. Sproat: I regret that it has not been possible to provide an answer before the summer recess. I shall therefore write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

London Film Commission and Royal Palaces

Mr. Chris Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) when she intends to announce the amount and duration of pump-priming funding for the London Film Commission; what sum she intends to allocate; and what budget heading it will come from; [35709]

(2) pursuant to her answer from the hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull North (Mr. McNamara) of 20 June, *Official Report*, column *178*, regarding his future plans for privatisation in the Department or its departmental agencies, if she will indicate on what grounds the privatisation proposals at the historic royal palaces were excluded from the list. [36330]

Mrs. Bottomley: I regret that it has not been possible to provide an answer before the summer recess. I shall therefore write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library.

BBC Governors

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many vacancies exist for BBC governors; and when she proposes to have them filled. [36181]

Mr. Sproat: There are at present three vacancies on the BBC board of governors. Replacement candidates for these vacancies are being considered and an announcement will be made shortly.

Civil Servants

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will list for each civil service grade in her Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35467]

Mr. Sproat: The Department of National Heritage currently employs staff as shown in the table. The figures exclude staff from the Department's two agencies, the Historic Royal Palaces Agency and Royal Parks Agency.

	Male		*Female*	
Grade	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
G1A	1	nil	nil	nil
G3	3	nil	1	nil
G4	1	nil	nil	nil
G5	14	nil	5	nil
G6	5	nil	2	nil
G7	33	nil	12	3
SEO	10	nil	6	nil
HEO	39	nil	24	3
HEO(D)	2	nil	2	nil
EO	34	nil	25	2
AO	27	nil	27	nil
AA	10	nil	19	nil
CUR E	nil	nil	2	nil
CUR F	2	nil	nil	nil
CUR G	1	nil	nil	nil
LIB	1	nil	1	nil
SIO	3	nil	1	nil
IO	2	nil	nil	nil
TYP	nil	nil	8	nil
PS	nil	nil	15	nil
SPS	nil	nil	6	nil
SPTO	1	nil	1	nil
STOF	nil	nil	1	nil
MTIII	1	nil	nil	nil
SGB1	nil	nil	1	nil
SGB2	2	nil	7	nil
Total	192	nil	166	8

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will make a statement on the achievements of *(a)* her policies and *(b)* her Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if she will publish the performance indicators by which her Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring. [34698]

Mr. Sproat: The Government recognise the crucial role played by small firms in the United Kingdom economy. Government continue to help smaller companies by keeping inflation and interest rates low and by reducing legislative and administrative and taxation burdens. They also provide direct assistance where appropriate. The White Paper, "Competitiveness—Forging Ahead" Cm 2867 published in May 1995 outlines a programme of measures the Government are taking to assist the growth and competitiveness of the small firms sector.

My Department has a particular interest in two sectors of the economy in which small firms play a substantial role. These are television and audio-visual media production and tourism. The Secretary of State established a broadcasting and audio-visual sponsorship division in my Department in April 1995, to work in partnership with the firms in the sector, as detailed in my right hon. Friend's answer to the Member for Macclesfield (Mr. Winterton) on 19 June, *Official Report*, column *47*.

Discussions with other Government Departments to reduce the burden of regulations affecting the tourism industry have continued since last year. In particular, my Department has had a major input to the Department of Transport's review of sign posting regulations, opening eligibility to a wider range of tourism businesses, including smaller establishments. As part of our strategy to assist the industry in improving competitiveness, set out in "Tourism; Competing with the Best", we have launched a "benchmarking" initiative for the small hotel sector. A sample of some 80 hotels with between 10 and 50 bedrooms will participate in an exercise to establish "benchmarks". The results will be published so that hoteliers can compare their performance with others, particularly the excellent performers. Guidance will be published to help them to understand what they need to do to improve the quality of their product and their own profitability.

The national lottery, which began in November 1994, has also benefited many small business; in particular the thousands of small retailers who sell tickets, and businesses offering ancillary services to the lottery operators.

My Department intends to continue its work to reduce legislation and administrative burdens on business, and to improve its links and consultation arrangements with businesses operating within the areas where I have a policy interest.

Rugby Union Football

Mr. Roy Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what assessment she has made of the effect on the culture and traditions of rugby union football of the actions of media owners, with special reference to Rupert Murdoch; and what measures she proposes to take in respect of such actions. [35205]

Mr. Sproat: I have made no such assessment and have no plans to take any measures in respect of such actions.

Sport (Television)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) what is her policy in respect of requiring key national sport events to be shown live on national television; [36226]

(2) what plans she has to ensure that major sporting events are shown live on terrestrial television. [36183]

Mr. Sproat: Whether any particular sporting events are shown live on television is a matter for the broadcasters concerned.

Sports (Drugs)

Miss Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the action being taken to promote anti-drug activities inside British sport; and if he will make a statement; [34449]

(2) what assessment she has made of the efficiency of the current drug testing programme run by the Sports Council. [34448]

Mr. Sproat: I have made no specific assessment of the Sports Council's drug testing programme, but am confident that, combined with its education and information programmes, it provides an efficient and effective method of controlling drug abuse in sport in the United Kingdom. This view was endorsed by the Sports Council's survey of elite competitors, a summary of which was published on 7 July. The council is also currently carrying out a consultation exercise aimed at enhancing and improving its existing doping control programmes.

Ethiopian Manuscripts

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what plans exist to return to Ethiopia the ecclesiastical manuscripts, artifacts an other items taken by the British Army from Ethiopia in 1868 and currently stored in the British Library, India Office collections and the royal library at Windsor castle. [35275]

Mr. Sproat: There are no plans at present to return to Ethiopia objects obtained in 1868 which are in the British Library, including the India Office collections.

The disposal of objects in the royal collections is entirely a matter for Her Majesty's the Queen.

BBC

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage when she expects to produce the Government's plans for the future of the BBC's transmission services. [35706]

Mr. Sproat: I refer to the answer given to the hon, Member for Nottingham, North (Mr. Allen) on 13 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *785*.

Departmental Sickness

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in her Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34582]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The total number of days lost through sick absence in my Department in the last 12 months was 2,190 days, including absences which spanned weekends and bank holidays. This represents 2.7 per cent. of the total number of working days in the Department during the last 12 month period.

The cost of this absence could only be calculated at disproportionate cost.

Millennium Commission

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what arrangements she will make to reply to the letter sent by Norman Robson of 167 Ninian Park road, Riverside, Cardiff, to the Millennium Commission dated 4 July referring to an unanswered question in previous letters concerning the Commission's policy and procedures for establishing a degree of public support for projects seeking grant aid; and what is her policy on the speed with which letters to the Millennium Commission should be answered. [35983]

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: This is a matter for the Millennium Commission. I shall reply to the hon. Member in my capacity as chairman of the commission and place copies of my reply in the Libraries of the House.

Channel 4

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage what proposals she has for ending the annual levy on Channel 4 for ITV. [36104]

Mr. Sproat: I have no plans to change the Channel 4 funding formula set out in the Broadcasting Act 1990.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will make a statement on the work her Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about her Department available to the public via the Government World Wide Web server known as www.open.gov.uk and her plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34681]

Mr. Sproat: The Department of National Heritage is aware of the pilot Government World Wide Web server. The Department is considering the publication of material on the World Wide Web and DNH press notices are already available on the World Wide Web from the COI on http://www.coi.gov.uk/coi/depts/GHE/GHE.html.

Computer Equipment

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage if she will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to her Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34557]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The Department of National Heritage was established on 13 April 1992 and the Royal Parks Agency was established on 1 April 1993 so figures are only available from those dates. The top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to the Department of National Heritage and its agencies were:

	£
Sema	1,280,000.00
MHG Systems	155,000.00
Fraser Associates	133,000.00
Select Ticketing	111,000.00
Apricot	74,000.00
TET	42,000.00
Sky High Computers	34,000.00
Dell	34,000.00
IBEX	25,000.00
INMAC	22,500.00

Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many redundancies occurred in her Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34583]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* No redundancies have occurred in my Department over the last 12 months.

Unfair Dismissals

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage how many unfair dismissal cases were brought against her Department during the last 12 months; how many were successful; and what were the total costs including legal fees and compensation. [34581]

Mr. Sproat *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* No unfair dismissal cases were brought against my Department during the last 12 months.

Royal Palaces

Mr. Chris Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage (1) how many consultants have been asked to review the security services at Kensington palace; what they recommended regarding the administration of the service; and what was the cost of consultants used. [36314]

(2) how much money the Historic Royal Palaces agency has spent on consultants since its establishment in 1988; and if she will list the consultants concerned; [36310]

(3) what is the current annual cost of running the security and warding service in the royal palaces; and if she will break the cost down *(a)* for the standard service, *(b)* for staffing special functions and *(c)* for overheads, separately identified for the security services at Hampton Court palace, the security service at Kensington palace, and the warding service at the Jewel house, Tower of London; [36318]

(4) what financial or other redress the Historic Royal Palaces agency has had to obtain from Group 4 in relation to the state apartment warding at Hampton Court palace arising from *(a)* unsatisfactory staffing levels and *(b)* other factors; [36316]

(5) how many consultants have been asked to review the warding services at the Tower of London; what these consultants recommended regarding the administration of the service; and what was the cost of consultants used; [36312]

(6) since the contract for state apartment warding at Hampton Court palace was placed with Group 4 in april, what complaints there have been either from *(a)* the Historic Royal Palaces agency and *(b)* members of the public; [36315]

(7) how many reports have been commissioned regarding security at each of the royal palaces; and what these reports have recommended; [36311]

(8) what particular skills are regarded as being essential in relation to the warding of *(a)* the Jewel house in the Tower of London, *(b)* Kensington palace and *(c)* Hampton Court palace; and what aspects of these skills prohibit the mounting of an in-house bid for the administration of the service in each case; [36317]

(9) how many consultants have been asked to review the security services at Hampton Court palace; what they recommended regarding the administration of the service; and what was the cost of consultants used. [36313]

Mrs. Virginia Bottomley: Responsibility for the subjects of these questions has been delegated to the Historic Royal Palaces agency under its chief executive, Mr. David Beeton. I have asked him to write to the hon. Member and place copies of his letter in the Libraries of the House.

Letter from David Beeton to Mr. Chris Smith, dated 26 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for the National Heritage has asked me to reply to your questions concerning security, warding and consultancies within the Historic Royal Palaces Agency.

Your questions and my responses are set out below.

No 666

How much money the Historic Royal Palaces Agency has spent on consultants since its establishment in 1988; and if she will list the consultants concerned.

The Agency has spent the following amounts on consultancies.

Year	*1988/89*	*1989/90*	*1990/91*	*1991/92*	*1992/93*	*1993/94*	*1994/95*
Value £k	N/A	N/A	44	478	2,956	3,708	1,381

HRPA has used a large numner of consultants in a wide variety of fields including management, catering, gardening, security, building syrveying, architecture, quantity surveying, structural engineering, service engineering, project management, security advice, health and safety advice, fire advice and archeology. This breakdown is all that can be supplied without incurring disproportionate costs. Note: the above figures do not include any consultancy work commissioned by PSA, who were responsible for all building works until the end of 1991/92. The peak in 1993/94 was principally caused by the New Jewel House at the Tower of London.

No 664

How many consultants have been asked to review the security services at Kensington Palace; what they recommended regarding the administration of the service; and what was the cost of the consultants used.

Two consultancies have reviewed the security services at Kensington Palace, within the last 2 years, as part of an overall review of these services at all the Historic Royal Palaces. Whilst the content of these reports must remain confidential for security reasons, their recommendations will continue to be taken full account of in the contracting out process which will not alter security standards. These will remain HRP's responsibility.

The cost of these consultancies was £9,276.

No 669

What is the current annual cost of running the Security and Warding Services in the Royal Palaces; and if she will break the cost down (a) for the standard service, (b) for staffing special functions and (c) for overheads, separately identified for the Security Services at Hampton Court Palace, the Security Service at Kensington Palace, and the Warding Service at the Jewel House Tower of London.

Security and Warding

	Hampton Court Palace £k		*Kew Palace £k*	*Kensington Palace £k*	*Jewel House (ToL) £k*	*Other (ToL) £k*	*Banqueting House £k*	*Total £k*
	Security	*Warding*						
Total	820	1,200	40	269	553	2,392	46	5,320

The cost of staffing for special functions and the cost of overheads are together not thought to exceed 10 per cent. of the total but to produce a more detailed analysis would incur disproportionate cost.

No 671

What financial or other redress the Historic Royal Palaces Agency has had to obtain from Group 4 in relation to the State Apartment Warding at Hampton Court Palace arising from (a) unsatisfactory staffing levels and (b) other factors.

Financial redress during the first three months of the contract was less than 0.5 per cent. of the contract value due to temporary shortfalls in manning levels. That is no more than occurred with the previous in-house operations. No redress has been required in respect of any other factors during that period.

No 673

How many consultants have been asked to review the warding services at the Tower of London; what these consultants recommended regarding the administration of the service; and what was the cost of consultants used.

Two consultancies have reviewed various aspects of the warding services at the Tower of London within the last 3 years and made a number of recommendations regarding the administration of the service which have been taken full account of in the contracting out process. The cost of the consultancies was £47k.

No 675

Since the contract for State Apartment Warding at Hampton Court Palace was placed with Group 4 in April, what complaints there have been either from (a) the Historic Royal Palaces Agency and (b) members of the public.

The Historic Royal Palaces Agency has recently discussed with Group 4 a shortfall in its manning levels during July. These were the result of a backlog in security clearances, not caused by Group 4, nor by the security status of their proposed employees. This shortfall is now resolved.

There have been 2 complaints from members of the public concerning the State Apartment Warders, during that period, together with many more letters of praise.

No 676

How many reports have been commissioned regarding security at each of the Royal Palaces; and what these reports have recommended.

In the last 2 years 12 security reports were commissioned as part of a general security review at each of the Palaces and for some specific projects (e.g. Crown Jewels project). Whilst the contents of these reports must remain confidential for security reasons their recommendations will, where relevant, continue to be taken full account of in the contracting out process which will not alter standards.

No 680

What particular skills are regarded as being essential in relation to the warding of (a) the Jewel House in the Tower of London, (b) Kensington Palace and (c) Hampton Court Palace; and what aspects of these skills prohibit the mounting of an in-house bid for the administration of the service in each case.

The essential skills are those needed to provide the high standards of warding service in the Palaces including honesty, integrity, security awareness and good communications. These skills are already available through the existing staff who will transfer over to the new contractor. It was not any perceived lack of skills which prompted the decision not to allow an in-house bid, but the considered view of the Historic Royal Palaces Agency that in future the warding of the Palaces could be provided more effectively with no loss in standards by contracting out day to day operation of the service to manpower management specialists. The Agency will work in close partnership with them and will continue to be responsible for setting the standards of service and monitoring them. It will also ensure that the staff employed have all the necessary skills to deliver the specified service.

No 681

How many consultants have been asked to review the security services at Hampton Court Palace; and what they recommended regarding the administration of the service; and what was the cost of consultants used.

One concultant was employed to review the security services at Hampton Court Palace during the last 2 years at a cost of £17,000. Whilst the content of this review must remain confidential for security reasons, the recommendations will continue to be taken full account of in the contracting out process which will not alter security standards.

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Small Businesses

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the Lord President of the Council if he will make a statement on the achievements of *(a)* his policies and *(b)* his Department in helping small businesses over the last 12 months as against the previous 12 months; and if he will publish the performance indicators by which his Department monitors those achievements and the statistical results of such monitoring.

Mr. Newton: The functions of the Privy Council Office do not include the provision of assistance to small businesses.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what is the annual expenditure for the National Audit Office for the last year for which figures are available. [27969]

Sir Peter Hordern: The appropriation account for 1994–95 for the National Audit Office, class XIX B, was published on 5 July as House of Commons Paper No. 476. Gross expenditure for the year totalled £42.2 million, and net expenditure, after taking account of appropriations in aid, totalled £36.2 million, a saving of about £0.3 million on planned net expenditure for the year.

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many staff were employed by the National Audit Office during the last year for which figures are available. [27970]

Sir Peter Hordern: During 1994–95 the National Audit Office employed around 750 staff, comprising 650 permanent employees and around 100 on short-term contract or seconded in, the latter mainly in support of value-for-money investigations.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Members' Pension Scheme

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Lord President of the Council if he will estimate the number of surviving relatives of former hon. Members who may have suffered financial loss as a result of the delay in implementing the Senior Salaries Review Body's recommendations in improvements in the hon. Members' pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [35318]

Mr. Newton: The proposal I put to the House envisages implementing the increase in death-in-service benefit with effect from 1 April 1995. This is one month after I received the report of the Senior Salaries Review Body. The period in question would affect one surviving relative, but no dependants.

Temporary Secretarial Assistance

Mr. Barnes: To ask the Lord President of the Council if he will make a statement concerning the operation of temporary secretarial assistance in hon. Members' staff [27628]

Mr. Newton: Temporary secretarial assistance is intended to meet the costs of a member who incurs further expenses in respect of his or her duties in obtaining temporary secretarial or research assistance while a person to whom a salary is paid by him or her is prevented through illness or pregnancy from providing such assistance. A number of practical modifications were made earlier this year as indicated by my answer to the hon. Member for Dewsbury (Mrs. Taylor) on 5 April 1995, *Official Report*, column *1232*. They were the subject of a circular issued by the accountant in that month.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Cocoa

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food whether the UK's share of the proceeds arising from the liquidation of the cocoa buffer stock will be directed towards cocoa research. [36552]

Mr. Baldry: The UK share of the buffer stock liquidation proceeds will, as required by Government accounting rules, be returned to the Consolidated Fund. In view of the way the buffer stock levy was collected, and in the light of strong representations from the cocoa trade and industry on the need to intensify the UK effort in advanced cocoa research, I am pleased to announce that subject to the necessary approvals, £2.2 million of voted provision will be reallocated by the Ministry in order to provide money for new research in the United Kingdom into cocoa production.

This sum will be administered through a newly established trust fund enabling key cocoa research projects to be funded and managed from the income generated by the trust fund capital. I plan to make a further announcement about the details later this year.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make a statement about the BSE epidemic. [36395]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: The BSE epidemic continues to decline. Some 44.6 per cent. fewer suspect cases are being reported now compared with the same period—January to June—1994. There are now about 300 new cases a week compared with over 1,000 at the peak of the epidemic.

The decline in the number of cases demonstrates that the ruminant feed ban, the key control measure, is proving successful in bringing the epidemic under control. It is estimated that the total number of cases is at least—150,000 fewer than would have occurred in the absence of the ban. However, we are continuing to see cases of BSE in animals born after the introduction of the feed ban in July 1988. This suggests that there has been some continued leakage of BSE infective material into animal feed.

We have already taken steps to prevent this by:

introducing new requirements, in April 1995, on the staining of specified bovine offal.

reviewing the controls on SBO to consolidate and strengthen them;

introducing new EC standards at rendering plants and withdrawing from use a system which was found, in experiments, not to inactivate the BSE agent;

identifying, with the * industry, the potential for cross-contamination in feed mills so that systems can be tightened up;

introducing the use of a new test to detect the presence of ruminant protein in animal feed.

I will shortly be making the Specified Bovine Offal Order 1995 which will consolidate and streamline the existing rules on SBO and strengthen them in some respects. The main changes to be introduced by the order will be:

(i) to require all rendering plants, head-boning plants, incinerators and collection points for specified bovine offal to be approved by Ministers. Rendering plants will have to have a totally dedicated processing line for specified bovine offal;

(ii) movement permits for specified bovine offal issued by local authorities will no longer be required in view of tighter controls being introduced on approval and record keeping throughout the disposal chain;

(iii) the brains and eyes of a bovine animal of six months or more may no longer be removed from the head so that the part of the skill containing brains and eyes, after removal of the head meat and tongue for human consumption, will have to be disposed of as specified bovine offal.

It is clear from the surveillance of slaughterhouses and head-boning plants that has been undertaken by my officials since the Government took over full responsibility for control of such premises in April this year that current practice on the separation and staining of the specified bovine offals can be improved. Most of the failings we have identified are comparatively minor in nature—for instance, using the wrong stain—and plant operators have been given clear instructions on what they must do to put things right. But some could have resulted in BSE infected material entering the animal feed chain. Further follow-up visits are being made to ensure that the faults have been rectified. Where failings are not corrected we are prepared to bring prosecutions if necessary.

Although these lapses in our animal health control system are unsatisfactory, consumers have no cause for alarm. I am satisfied that these findings have no implications for human health and that measures to ensure that no infective material enters the human food chain are working effectively.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the cost of compensating Welsh farmers with suspected BSE cases in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34974]

Mrs. Browning: It is not possible without disproportionate costs to identify separately the payments made to farmers in Wales. The total amount paid out in BSE compensation in Great Britain during 1993–94 and 1994–95 was £35.2 million and £18.4 million respectively. The total number of cattle compulsorily slaughtered as BSE suspects on which compensation would have automatically have been paid in Wales during 1993–94 and 1994–95 was 3,708 and 2,080 respectively. The total number of cattle slaughtered as BSE suspects in Great Britain for those periods was 35,274 and 22,205 respectively.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what evidence he has from his Ministry or other institutions of the maternal transmission of BSE. [35590]

Mrs. Browning: None. There is no experimental or epidemiological evidence available to confirm that maternal transmission of BSE occurs. Results of research to test the hypothesis that the disease might be transmitted maternally will not be available for another two years. It is clear, however, that if maternal transmission does occur, it does so too infrequently to be detected with our current statistical techniques.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many recent cattle identified as suffering from BSE are within the age range that could account for the disease being passed on by maternal transmission. [35591]

Mrs. Browning: Age at clinical onset is not an indicator of the route of transmission, and other routes of transmission, most notably by feed, cannot be excluded simply on the basis of the date of birth.

Central Science Laboratory

Mr. Bill Walker: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to make a statement on the future of the Central Science Laboratory, Torry in Aberdeen. [36069]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: I confirm that the Torry laboratory will be closed in 1996 as previously announced on 6 June, *Official Report*, columns *1–2*, by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary, then Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. I will make a further announcement soon on the consequential changes for the work currently undertaken by the laboratory.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans he has to reconsider the financial provisions for environmentally sensitive areas. [33384]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: None. The financial provisions for environmentally sensitive areas in England are set at levels considered sufficient to meet the needs of this voluntary scheme over the next few years.

Ms Roseanna Cunningham: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans he has to increase the number of environmentally sensitive areas in England. [33388]

Mr. Boswell: We have no plans at present to increase the number of environmentally sensitive areas in England.

Bovine Immunodeficiency-like Virus

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what research his Department is undertaking to produce a reliable serological test for BIV. [34437]

Mrs. Browning: A three-year programme of research on molecular studies to improve the serological diagnosis of bovine immunodeficeincy-like virus is under way at the Central Veterinary Laboratory and Glasgow university veterinary school.

Food Safety

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will specify the areas of food safety under investigation for deregulation. [34411]

Mrs. Browning: The food law deregulation plan, prepared jointly by my Department and the Department of Health, was issued on 14 September 1993. The plan, which recognises both the important need for consumer protection and the need to work with our partners in Europe to achieve greater harmonisation; is divided into six sectors. Two of these—hygiene and food additives and contaminants—deal with food safety.

The Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995 will implement the EC General Food Hygiene Directive from 15 September. In addition, the Department of Health is planning revisions to statutory food temperature controls. Together, these will result in the repeal of 11 sets of regulations when they enter into force later this year.

The Dairy Products (Hygiene) Regulations 1995, which implement the EC Directive on milk hygiene, have resulted in the repeal of nine sets of regulations and the consolidation of existing milk hygiene regulations in England and Wales.

We are encouraging the European Commission to simplify and rationalise product-specific EC food hygiene rules.

Food Additives and Contaminants

My Department has issued draft UK regulations for consultation on implementing EC directives on sweeteners and colours. It shall also be issuing shortly draft UK regulations for consultation on implementing an EC directive on food additives other than sweeteners and colours. These directives fully harmonise legislation controlling the use of the principal classes of food additives throughout the EC. They will enable six sets of UK regulations to be revoked.

Consolidation of the regulations setting limits for lead, arsenic and aflatoxin in food, is in abeyance, whilst discussions about introducing EC harmonising regulations in this area are on-going.

Bananas

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make an estimate of the impact on the consumption of bananas in the United Kingdom of abolishing all impediments to trade in the banana industry; and if he will make a statement. [34996]

Mr. Baldry: Consumption of bananas in the United Kingdom has almost doubled in the last 10 years and retail prices are now at historically low levels in real terms. Since the single market for bananas came into force two years ago, consumers have been offered a wider choice than ever before.

Intervention Board (Prosecutions)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful prosecutions have been undertaken by the Intervention Board for each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [34731]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: I have asked the chief executive of the Intervention Board to reply direct.

Letter from Guy Stapleton to Mr. Martin Redmond, dated 19 July 1995:

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has asked me to reply to your question about prosecutions due for answer on 18 July 1995, as this is a matter within my operational responsibility.

The position on prosecutions undertaken by the Intervention Board since 1990 is:

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*Total*
Successful	8	6	6	7	2	1	30
Unsuccessful	2	1	0	1	1	0	5

The success rate over the period is 83% which is commendable given the generally complex nature of the EC support systems managed by the Intervention Board.

The reduced levels of activity in 1994 and 1995 substantially reflect the extent to which support is not targeted directly to farmers through the Agriculture Departments, following the reform of the CAP in 1992.

Prosecutions covering the external trade area of the Agency's business are conducted by HM Customs and Excise. The achievements over the same period were:

	1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*Total*
Successful	1	1	3	3	0	0	8
Unsuccessful	1	0	0	0	1	0	2

The success rate for external trade cases is 80%, quite close to the level achieved on internal market support schemes.

Food Disposal

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many cases of illegal or irregular disposal of food have been brought to the attention of the Intervention Board for each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [34732]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: I have asked the chief executive of the Intervention Board to reply direct.

Letter from Guy Stapleton to Mr. Martin Redmond, dated 19 July 1995:

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has asked me to reply to your question about reports to the Agency of illegal or irregular disposal of food as this is a matter within my operational responsibility.

Reports of irregular disposals of food under the Surplus Food Scheme in the last five years were:

Calendar Year	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*
Number of reports	1	1	6	15	7

Four of the current cases under investigation by the Intervention Board's Anti-Fraud Unit or the Police. The investigation of 2 further cases has been concluded. The papers on one have been sent to the Procurator Fiscal for this consideration; the other case has proceeded to court but has been adjourned after the initial hearing until September.

The introduction of the Surplus Food Regulations (SI 184/95) with effect from 1 February 1995 enables the Intervention Board to address vigorously any case of abuse under the arrangements, to prosecute offenders and to seize all misappropriated produce and re-direct it to those from the Scheme is intended to benefit.

Salmonella

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food how many incidents of salmonella in farm animals were recorded in Wales in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [34973]

Mrs. Browning: The number of incidents of salmonella in farm animals in Wales reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Zoonoses Order 1989 since 1990, and up to 13 July 1995, are shown in the table:

Species	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*
Cattle and Calves	202	156	139	237	249	159
Sheep	20	17	13	14	30	36
Pigs	2	3	2	4	3	1
Poultry	135	95	45	43	16	4
Other Species	23	7	1	14	12	14
Total	382	278	200	312	310	214

The reporting system was enhanced in 1993. Data for earlier years are not directly comparable with that collected since 1993.

It is encouraging to note that reported incidents of salmonella in poultry continue to decline. Recent data show that cases of salmonella typhimurium DT104 infection have been increasing in other farmed animals, most notably cattle. A case control study in cattle has been set up to try to discover why the incidence of this organism has increased.

The Government remain committed to firm but proportionate action against salmonella and continued protection for the consumer while avoiding disproportionate burdens on producers.

Set-aside Scheme

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what proportion of accepted applicants for the five-year set-aside scheme between 1988 and 1991 were Welsh farmers; and if he will make a statement. [34985]

Mr. Baldry: Approximately 1 per cent. of accepted applicants in the UK for the five-year set-aside scheme between 1988 and 1991 were Welsh farmers.

Welsh Fishing Vessels

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the total number of fishing vessels operating out of Welsh ports in 1993; and if he will make a statement. [34883]

Mr. Baldry: Information about the number of fishing vessels operating out of Welsh ports in 1993 is not readily available. However, at 31 December 1993 there were 574 vessels licensed in Wales.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what proportion of Welsh fishing vessels are 40 ft and over; what is the corresponding proportion for the United Kingdom fishing fleet; and if he will make a statement. [34885]

Mr. Baldry: As at 1 January 1995, 13 per cent.—75 vessels—of the Welsh fleet, and 23 per cent.—1,923—of the UK fleet were 40 ft—12.20 m—or over in length.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the nominal value of landings by Welsh fishing vessels in each year between 1990 and 1993; and if he will make a statement. [34884]

Mr. Baldry: The first-hand sale value of all landings by vessels licensed in Wales in the years 1990 to 1993 were respectively £12.1 million, £20.4 million, £22 million and £26.7 million respectively.

North Sea Fisheries

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will consider proposing measures to limit the voting powers of EU member states on matters concerning the North sea to nations with a coast on the North sea, as part of the common fisheries policy review. [34877]

Mr. Baldry: I am committed to effective conservation and enforcement in all waters where European Community vessels fish. If voting rights were to be limited only to EU member states with a coastal interest, the UK's scope for influencing decisions on matters concerning waters where we do not have a coastline would be lost.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will make an estimate of the impact on average British food bills of eliminating state intervention in European agriculture; and if he will make a statement. [35130]

Mr. Baldry: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, West (Mr. Waldegrave) to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Nicholson) on 9 March 1995, *Official Report*, column *328*.

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was *(a)* the total number of employees of the Intervention Board and *(b)* the cost for each of the last five years. [34735]

Mr. Baldry: I have asked the chief executive of the Intervention Board to reply direct.

Letter from Guy Stapleton to Mr. Martin Redmond, dated 19 July 1995:

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has asked me to reply to your question about *(a)* the total number of employees of the Intervention Board and *(b)* the cost for each of the last five years as this matter is within my operational responsibility.

The total number of employees and pay bill costs are published in the Departmental Report for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Intervention Board, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

The figures are as follows and include the cost of overtime and casual staff:

Period	*Total Number of Employees (Staff Years–Full time Equivalent)*	*Pay Bill Costs (£ million)*
1990–91	997	12
1991–92	1,030	14
1992–93	1,049	16
1993–94	1,006	17
1994–95	989	17

Beef and Sheep Extensification Schemes

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what proportion of the participants in the beef and sheep extensification schemes in 1990–91 were Welsh farmers; and if he will make a statement. [34984]

Mr. Baldry: Approximately 13 per cent. of UK participants in the beef and sheep extensification schemes in 1990–91 were Welsh farmers.

Fruit and Vegetables (Destruction)

Mr. Byers: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was the amount of each fruit and vegetable destroyed, even though fit for consumption, by *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* the whole European Community as a result of the common agriculture policy in each of the last three years. [35092]

Mr. Boswell *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* Information for the last three years for which statistics are available is as follows:

Destruction of fruit and vegetables for which EU withdrawal compensation was paid

(tonnes)

Product	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*
Apples	179,589	26,088	968,617
Pears	5,422	652	55,079
Cauliflowers	15,365	40,480	126,727
Tomatoes	7,122	44,179	32,850
Apricot	36,880	937	19,503
Nectarines	39,660	36,387	164,690

Destruction of fruit and vegetables for which EU withdrawal compensation was paid

(tonnes)

Product	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*
Peaches	409,734	337,120	720,262
Lemons	17,334	13,448	80,941
Aubergines	82	553	148
Grapes	85	291	3,222
Satsumas	—	—	3,587
Mandarins	3,296	2,723	2,492
Clementines	578	1,655	43,856
Oranges	204,396	154,877	504,794
of which the UK statistics were:			
Apples	9,969	669	20,019
Pears	56	40	17
Cauliflowers	3,369	4,657	13,810
Tomatoes	0	0	3

Source:

European Commission

Milk (Butterfat Content)

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will calculate the cash value at current prices to a milk quota holder of the additional annual production which would be allowed if the butterfat content of that milk was underestimated as being 3.5 per cent. instead of an assumed 4 per cent. base. [35103]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* An underestimation of the butterfat content of milk deliveries would normally have the effect of allowing a producer to deliver more milk against his or her quota. But the precise volume and value of those extra deliveries would depend on a number of factors including the amount of quota held by the producer, the butterfat base of that quota and the price of the milk. Milk with a lower butterfat content generally attracts a lower price.

Mrs. Winterton: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what steps he takes to ensure standardisation in the testing of butterfat content of milk in the assessment of compliance with milk production quotas; and if he will make a statement. [35102]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The Intervention Board executive agency, which is responsible for administering milk quotas, has commissioned the Central Science Laboratory to check standards at laboratories which are approved to carry out butterfat tests on milk. The first round of proficiency testing will start this month. All approved laboratories will be required to participate. Any laboratory failing to meet an acceptable standard will be excluded from testing for milk quota purposes.

Mrs. Winterton: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what information he has concerning the size of the black market in milk associated with systematic underestimation of butterfat content; and what action is being taken to tackle his problem. [35104]

Mr. Baldry *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The Intervention Board is investigating allegations that butterfat contents have been deliberately underestimated. It is not possible at this stage to say whether there is any substances to these allegations.

"Foodsense"

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's booklet "Foodsense" has been distributed bilingually throughout Wales; and if he will make a statement. [34892]

Mrs. Browning: I have been asked to reply.

The "Foodsense" publications have not been produced in Welsh. I understand, however, that the Welsh Office produces a range of publications in Welsh about food safety matters.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Mr. Sykes: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when the 1994–95 annual report and accounts for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate is due to be published. [36388]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: I am pleased to report that the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's annual report and accounts for 1994–95 was published today. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

The report confirms the continuing success of the directorate as a next steps agency, and I would like to congratulate the chief executive and his staff on their considerable achievements during the year.

Central Veterinary Laboratory

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when the annual report and accounts for the Central Veterinary Laboratory is due to be laid before Parliament. [36553]

Mr. Douglas Hogg: The Central Veterinary Laboratory's annual report and accounts were laid before Parliament today. Copies are available in the House Library. The report demonstrates the continuing progress and success of the laboratory as a next steps agency and I would like to congratulate the chief executive and his staff on their considerable achievements during the year.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Income-Related Benefit Recipients

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was *(a)* the number of children, and *(b)* the number of children as a proportion of all families that were living in families dependent on income-related benefits for each year since 1979 for each region. [32928]

Mr. Roger Evans: Information is not available on a consistent basis for all benefits or prior to 1991. The information that is available is set out in the tables. Data on population are not yet available for 1994.

Proportion of children in each region living in families receiving income-related benefits

	Region										
	North	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*East Midlands*	*East Anglia*	*London (Inner and Outer)*	*South east (including London)*	*South West*	*West Midlands*	*North west*	*Scotland*	*Wales*
1991											
Number of children aged 0–15 (thousands)	628	1,012	816	415	1,340	2,154	900	1,095	1,345	591	1,024
Number of children in families receiving income-related benefits (thousands)	200	280	180	70	410	380	190	320	420	290	160
Proportion in families receiving income-related benefits (percentage)	31.9	27.7	22.1	16.9	30.6	17.6	21.1	29.2	31.2	49.1	15.6
1992											
Number of children aged 0–15 (thousands)	634	1,024	827	432	1,365	2,177	910	1,104	1,355	596	1,026
Number of children in families receiving income-related benefits (thousands)	210	310	220	80	510	440	210	340	440	320	170
Proportion in families receiving income-related benefits (percentage)	33.1	30.3	24.2	18.5	37.4	20.2	23.1	30.8	32.5	53.7	16.6
1993											
Number of children aged 0–15 (thousands)	639	1,035	835	415	1,391	2,196	920	1,114	1,367	602	1,032
Number of children in families receiving income-related benefits (thousands)	210	310	220	100	560	510	240	360	480	320	190
Proportion in families receiving income-related benefits (percentage)	32.9	30	26.3	24.1	40.3	23.2	26.1	32.3	35.1	53.2	18.4

Notes:

1. Child population figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Children in families receiving income-related benefits has been rounded to the nearest 10,000. All percentages have been rounded to one decimal place.
2. Children in families receiving income-related benefits does not include those in families receiving Family Credit or Disability Working Allowance only—a regional breakdown is not available.
3. Children may be in families receiving more than on income-related benefit. Overlaps between benefits have been taken into account.
4. Children are defined as aged 15 and under.
5. Standard statistical regions have been used.

Proportion of children in Great Britain in families receiving an income-related benefit.

	1991	*1992*	*1993*
Number of children aged 0–15 (thousands)	11,318	11,433	11,547
Number of children in families receiving Family Credit or Disability Working Allowance only (thousands)	430	500	620
Number of children in families receiving one or more income-related benefits (thousands)	3,340	3,720	4,100
Proportion of children in families receiving one or more income-related benefits (per cent.)	29.5 per cent.	32.5 per cent.	35.5 per cent.

Notes:

1. Child population figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Children in families receiving income-related benefits has been rounded to the nearest 10,000. All percentages have been rounded to one decimal place. 2. Children may be in families receiving more than one income related benefit. Overlaps between benefits have been taken into account.3. Children are defined as aged 15 and under.

Source:

Income Support Statistics May 1991–1993.
Family Credit Statistics April 1991–April 1993.
Disability Working Allowance Statistics 1992–1993.
Office of Population, Censuses and Survey mid term estimates 1991–1993.

Ms Corston: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security for each year from 1979 to the latest year for which information is available, what was the estimated number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10–13, (iii) 14–16 and (iv) 17–20 years respectively in households receiving (1) supplementary benefit/income support and (2) supplementary benefit, income support or housing benefit. [34465]

Mr. Evans: The information available is set out in the tables.

Table 1: Supplementary Benefit/Income Support—thousands

	Number of dependents				Number of claimants			Number of partners
	Aged under 10	10–13	14–16	17–20	Males	Females	All claimants aged 16–20	Aged 16–20
1979	574	236	135	9	89	105	194	15
1980	693	271	149	12	152	147	299	27
1981	949	369	214	18	235	187	422	42
1982	1,097	424	244	28	320	238	558	48
1983	1,145	433	261	29	333	268	601	51
1984	1,267	449	287	30	339	270	608	51
1986	1,420	458	313	36	323	270	593	44
1987	1,458	421	309	48	256	246	501	38
1988	1,472	410	275	39	188	203	391	33
1989	1,463	384	250	42	146	161	307	30
1990	1,480	382	245	43	148	164	312	25
1991	1,713	466	264	54	190	184	373	30
1992	1,946	544	303	81	219	202	420	29
1993	2,097	620	346	101	238	213	452	33
1994	2,080	629	369	106	214	199	412	30

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Due to rounding some of the totals may not tally.
2. Income Support replaced Supplementary Benefit in 1988.

Source:

Supplementary Benefit/Income Support Statistics Annual Enquiries 1979–93.
Income Support Statistics Quarterly Enquiry May 1994.

Table 2: Housing Benefit without Supplementary Benefit/Income Support—thousands

	Number of dependants				Number of claimants			Number of partners
	Age under 10	10–13	14–16	17–20	Males	Females	All claimants aged 16–20	Aged 16–20
1979	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1980	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1981	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1982	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1983	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1984	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1986	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1987	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1988	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1989	187	69	51	8	—	57	—	6
1990	205	78	56	11	—	60	—	5
1991	213	87	55	14	1	17	—	5
1992	227	95	55	15	—	17	—	5
1993	254	101	59	14	1	18	—	6
1994	284	104	61	16	1	17	—	4

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Due to rounding some of the totals may not tally.
2. "—" denotes nil or negligible.
3. Information is not available prior to 1989.
4. Tables does not include HB recipients with IS.

Source:

Housing Benefit Management Information Systems 1 per cent. sample at May each year.

Fraud

Mr. Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is his estimate of the annual cost to public funds of social security fraud; and if he will set out in detail how he arrives at his total. [35050]

Mr. Roger Evans: The information is not available in the form requested.

The Department is currently undertaking a series of systematic review of the major benefits to gauge the level of incorrectness in the benefit system. We have recently published the results of the review of income support and unemployment benefit. The findings indicate that £1.4 billion a year is lost through fraudulent claims to these benefits.

A copy of the report, which includes details of the methodology used, has been placed in the Library.

Young People (Leaving Care Grant)

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what plans he has to introduce a leaving care grant to ensure young people leaving care are financially supported. [35014]

Mr. Roger Evans: There are no plans to introduce a leaving care grant. However, community care grants from the social fund are available for people who are leaving care and are receiving, or are likely to receive, income support.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will exclude specialist housing and services, provided to vulnerable persons, from forthcoming housing benefit changes limiting rents to averages for property; and if he will make a statement. [35134]

Mr. Roger Evans: Regulations laid before the House on 29 June—SI 1995 No. 1644—provide that the following accommodation which caters for tenants with particular needs will be exempt from the forthcoming housing benefit changes for tenants in deregulated private sector accommodation:

> Hostel accommodation for people without a fixed way of life which is funded under Schedule 5 of the Supplementary Benefits Act 1980;
>
> Accommodation provided by housing associations, registered charities or voluntary organisations where care, support or supervision is provided by, or on behalf of, the provider to residents.

Mortgage Interest

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what discussions he has had or proposes to have with mortgage lenders in respect of mortgage protection insurance and mortgage indemnity insurance and the need to explain fully the cover offered by these policies with particular reference to exclusion clauses; and what assessment he has made of the views of the Building Societies Ombudsman on this matter. [35379]

Mr. Roger Evans: This Department has had frequent meetings with the Council of Mortgage Lenders to discuss the new arrangements for income support mortgage interest. We share the view of the Building Society Ombudsman that lenders who sell mortgage protection policies should abide by the code of practice of the Association of British Insurers.

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how much money his Department expects to save as a result of the new regulations relating to assistance for mortgage interest payments; and what the estimate is of the average saving per claimant. [35472]

Mr. Evans: The projected savings are estimated to be £200 million in the long run; this equates to about £7 per claimant per week.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what research his Department has conducted and what consultations he has had with mortgage lenders concerning the categories of home owners who currently do not qualify for mortgage insurance indemnity policies and if he will make a statement. [35327]

Mr. Evans: The Department has conducted no research on this form of insurance.

The term "mortgage insurance indemnity policies" is conventionally used to cover insurance for the risk of a mortgaged property selling for less than its valuation, and such may be a condition of granting the mortgage in some cases, as the parties may determine.

The issue is not a responsibility of this Department. However, this Department has regular consultations with the Council for Mortgage Lenders concerning mortgage matters.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security when he intends to introduce a standardised rate of interest payment on behalf of borrowers on income support; what estimate he has made of the number of borrowers for which its introduction will constitute a shortfall in payments; and what estimate his Department has made of the present arrears of borrowers who will receive a shortfall in payments. [35368]

Mr. Evans: This Department is committed to introducing a standard rate of interest at or around the average rate charged and to change the rate in response to fluctuations in this rate. The standard rate will be introduced on 2 October and will be based on the average rate published in the August edition of "Financial Statistics". Precise estimates of gainers and losers can be made only once this baseline has been established.

National Insurance

Ms Mahon: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what assessment he has made of the extent of anomalies in the benefit system caused by the extent of a person's NI contribution liability depending on the length of the pay interval or earnings period; and if officers are allowed to exercise discretion in cases when the person would have satisfied the qualifying conditions for benefit had the pay interval been different. [35266]

Mr. Heald: We have made no assessment of the effect of different earnings periods on the qualifying conditions for benefit. However, we are aware that cases can arise where someone just fails to qualify because he is not liable to pay national insurance contributions on earnings in a particular pay period.

Broad rules are inevitable in a national insurance scheme which must cater for a wide variety of methods by which earnings may be calculated and paid. The earnings period for national insurance contributions is the interval at which an employee is normally paid. The interval of payment depends upon the employee's contract of employment with the employer. When an employee starts work, the expected regular earnings period operates from the outset even if the employee starts work part way through that period. The Secretary of State has no discretionary powers to alter the earnings period in these circumstances.

Arrangements already exist within the national insurance system which may help someone to qualify for benefit in certain circumstances. For example, if an employee starts work towards the end of the tax year and the salary is paid after the end of the tax year, there are provisions which enable the Secretary of State to re-allocate primary (employee) class 1 contributions from one tax year to another.

Income Support

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what were the numbers of income support claimants in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the United Kingdom in each year since 1979. [35222]

Mr. Roger Evans: The available information is set out in the table.

Numbers of Income Support claimants in Scotland and the United Kingdom since 1979

	Supplementary Benefit/Income Support claimants in Scotland (000s)	*Supplementary Benefit/Income Support claimants in UK (000s)*
1979	286	2,969
1980	304	3,233
1981	371	3,823
1982	423	4,422
1983	440	4,518
1984	468	4,785
1985	—	—
1986	506	5,122
1987	535	5,086
1988	499	4,536
1989	486	4,344
1990	481	4,369
1991	487	4,683
1992	519	5,293
1993	543	5,858
1994	550	—

Notes:
1. *Source:* Supplementary benefit/Income Support Statistics Annual/Quarterly Enquiries 1979–1994.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Income Support replaced Supplementary Benefit in 1988.
4. The UK figure for 1981 is incomplete because industrial action affected the Northern Ireland count.
5. Figures are not available for 1985 due to industrial action.
6. A UK figure for 1994 cannot be compiled because data for Northern Ireland is not yet available.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what difficulties have been experienced in the last two months with the retrieval by computer of income support details *(a)* in north Tyneside and *(b)* nationally in each case how many records have had to be retrieved manually; and what has been the additional cost. [36111]

Mr. Evans: The administration of income support is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. member with such information as is available.

Letter from Ian Magee to Stephen Byers, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about difficulties with the retrieval by computer of Income Support details in North Tyneside and nationally.

The North Tyneside District Office have had difficulty retrieving information on only one case in the last few months. There are problems with the retrieval of information from the Income Support Computer System (ISCS) that could affect all offices. This will only be experienced on a limited number of cases, for example, if a customer moves address on more than one occasion over a short period of time.

Where problems do occur with the retrieval of information on ISCS, a record print is obtained from the Information Technology Service Agency (ITSA).

In the period since the beginning of May 1995, the ITSA have received 27 requests for record prints which could not be obtained locally. Each case requires an average of half a days action by a computer technician. The associated computer costs and action taken locally make it difficult to establish the exact cost.

Work is continuing to resolve the data retrieval problems, for example, a backlog of information has been moved from one part of the ISCS system to another. As a result, data previously unavailable on a local basis has now become available. The Benefits Agency and ITSA recognise that there are problems with data retrieval and every effort is being made to resolve these problems as a matter of urgency.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Mr. Win Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he plans to disregard the value of the nursery voucher for four-year-olds for the purposes of income support and family credit. [35395]

Mr. Evans *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* Yes. It is planned to disregard the value of such vouchers in income support and family credit.

Chronic Bronchitis and Emphysema

Mr. Pike: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what information he has as to when the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council will publish its review of the qualifying criterion for PD D12 (chronic bronchitis and emphysema); and if he will make a statement. [35376]

Mr. Heald: I understand that the council expects to complete its review by the end of the year. The council's reports are usually published within two or three months of their submission to Ministers. The Government will consider carefully any recommendations that the council may make.

Domiciliary Services

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what information he has on the number of local authorities which have introduced new systems of paying for domiciliary services which take into account a person's attendance/disability allowance in the financial assessment; what guidance he has issued to the Benefits Agency in respect of the introduction of these new systems and if both existing and new claimants are being warned or compensated in regard to new deductions that will occur. [35324]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: Payment of attendance allowance and the care component of disability living allowance is not affected by any charges that a local authority might make for domiciliary services. This is not a matter, therefore, on which it would be appropriate to issue guidance to the Benefits Agency. Information about the number of local authorities whose financial assessments take into account attendance allowance or the care component of disability living allowance is not collected centrally by the Department of Health.

Incomes

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what were the shares of total income for each decile of the population, after housing costs were deducted, in *(a)* 1979 and *(b)* in the last year for which figures are available. [35223]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The information is in the table. Figures for 1992–93 may be subject to slight revision. The information is presented including and excluding the self-employed, whose reported income may be an unreliable guide to their actual standard of living. A further response will be given as soon as possible.

Percentage shares of total weekly income after housing costs received by individuals in each decile group of the UK income distribution

Decile group	Including self-employed		Excluding self-employed	
	1979	1992–93	1979	1992–93
Bottom	4.0	1.9	4.1	2.3
2	5.6	4.1	5.7	4.2
3	6.5	5.0	6.6	5.2
4	7.5	6.3	7.6	6.4
5	8.5	7.6	8.6	7.8
6	10	9.0	10	9.2
7	11	11	11	11
8	12	12	12	13
9	14	15	14	15
Top	21	28	20	26

Notes:

1. Estimates for the bottom 10 per cent. should be treated with caution as they are sensitive to data of uncertain reliability at the bottom end of the income distribution.
2. All members are presented to two significant figures.
3. Income is current weekly disposal income.

Social Security Expenditure

Sir Ralph Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the current average social security cost per claimant and in each year since 1980 at 1994 prices. [36290]

Mr. Burt: The information is not available. A claimant can receive more than one benefit at a time and therefore it is not possible to identify the overall number of people receiving benefits.

Mr. Ralph Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what would be the estimated reduction in expenditure on social security benefits and on welfare foods and free school meals for social security benefits recipients if everybody between the ages of 16 to 65 years who was fit and able to work entered *(a)* £120 per week gross of tax and national insurance contributions, *(b)* £140 per week gross and *(c)* £160 per week gross. [36289]

Mr. Burt: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Sir Ralph Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what are the current total administrative and overhead costs required to administer social security claims and payments, including the current numbers of civil servants and benefit centres, and what was the costs in each year since 1980 at 1994 prices. [36296]

Mr. Burt: Available information on administrative costs is drawn from table 10 of the social security departmental report (Cm 2813). Total costs of administration 1994–95 are estimated to be £4,408 million. This includes the cost of collecting national insurance contributions, administering the child support system, expenditure by the Department of Employment administering benefits for the unemployed and expenditure by local authorities administering housing and council tax benefits.

Figures at 1994–95 prices for previous years are as follows:

Costs of administration (at 1994–95 prices)

Year	£ million
1994–95	4,408
1993–94	4,373
1992–93	4,203
1991–92	3,954
1990–91	3,725
1989–90	3,530
1988–89	3,392
1987–88	3,366
1986–87	3,129
1985–86	2,911
1984–85	2,774
1983–84	2,839
1982–83	2,720
1981–82	2,599
1980–81	2,392

Notes:

(a) 1983–84 and prior year costs include the estimated DSS proportion of total DHSS administrative costs.

(b) 1987–88 and prior year costs relate to gross running costs. From 1988–89 the costs include capital costs.

At the last count—1 April 1995—the Department of Social Security employed the equivalent of 89,334 full time civil servants. The Benefits Agency currently uses 11 disability benefit centres and three benefit centres, handling clerical work relocated out of some London offices.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Steinberg: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what cognisance has been taken of the recent findings of the King's Fund in relation to the high incidence of illness and disability among those living on low incomes in the setting of levels of incapacity benefits; and what safeguards exist for the protection of those sufferers of less overt disabilities who are refused cover under private insurance arrangements. [36172]

Mr. Burt: We have noted the contents of the report. The level at which benefits for incapacity are set reflects our commitment to provide national insurance benefits for people who are incapable of work within a structure that is sustainable and affordable in the long term. Income support is available for people whose income, from private health insurance or elsewhere, is insufficient to meet their needs.

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many medical examinations for the all work test of incapacity have taken place *(a)* in total and *(b)* by region; and how many (i) in total and (ii) by region have been scheduled for examination but have not yet taken place. [35251]

Mr. Burt: The administration of incapacity benefit is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Keith Bradley, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the number of medical examinations for the all work test of incapacity that have taken place (a) in total and (b) by region; and how many (i) in total and (ii) by region have been scheduled for examination but have not yet taken place.

Figures for the total number of examinations that have been carried out and for the number of scheduled are available to the end of May 1995. There are as follows:

Examinations carried out: 650

Examinations scheduled but not carried out: 5,284

Figures are not available by region.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how may IB50 all-work test questionnaires have been issued by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* by region; how many of these have (i) been returned and (ii) not been returned by the claimant within the time allowed; and how many are still outstanding. [35296]

Mr. Burt: The administration of incapacity benefit is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member with such information as is available.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Keith Bradley, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about Incapacity Benefit all-work questionnaires.

The information requested is not available by region and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. The total number of IB50 all-work test questionnaires issued by computer system up to an including 31 May 1995 is 200,311.

From this total, 77,203 were returned up to and including 31 May 1995, 2,800 were not returned by customers within the time allowed and the number still outstanding is 123,108.

In addition to system produced questionnaires, a small number of questionnaires are issued clerically by Benefits Agency district offices. Statistics relating to the numbers of questionnaires issued clerically could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Mr. Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what training has been given on mental health to the Benefits Agency Medical Service staff who have been recruited to undertake the new test of incapacity. [35298]

Mr. Burt: The administration of invalidity benefit is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Keith Bradley, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the training given on mental health to the Benefits Agency (BA) Medical Service staff who have been recruited to undertake the new test of incapacity.

All doctors employed by BA Medical Services are full registered medical practitioners with previous clinical experience. The majority of the doctors employed on a sessional basis are either practising or retired General Practitioners with experience of treating patients with mental health problems. In addition, every doctor who will carry out all work test assessments has to undergo specific training to do the work.

All full-time and short-term contract doctors attend a two day further medical education conference during which there is a session devoted specifically to the assessment of mental health problems. This session is led by a consultant psychiatrist and covers the latest thinking in the treatment of mental health problems. It also includes discussion of a video recording of demonstration assessment interviews.

In addition, all doctors, full-time, contract and sessional, who are to carry out the all work test assessment undergo a process of approval to do the work. The approval process starts with four days of classroom based training. This includes a module designed specifically to cover the assessment of mental health problems. The module also incorporates discussion of demonstration mental health interviews.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Motability

Mr. Alex Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) if he will make it his policy to ensure that the vehicle leasing market for disabled users will in future benefit from competitive tendering; [35032]

(2) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the procedures for contracting out of goods and services by the directors of the Motability charity; [35036]

(3) what is his policy in relation to competitive tendering in relation to the expenditure by Motability of money provided by his Department; [35033]

(4) if he will make it his policy that the governors of the Motability charity should not enter into any contracts for goods or services in excess of £50,000 without prior departmental approval; [35037]

(5) if it is his policy that the governors or directors of Motability may not issue guarantees, indemnities or letters of comfort except with the consent of the Secretary of State; [35046]

(6) if he will list the amounts paid in grant in aid to the Motability charity in each of the last three years; and if future payments of grant in aid are to be made conditional upon the efficiency with which Motability is managed; [35034]

(7) if he is informed by the governors of Motability, on an annual basis, of the charity's performance on providing best value for money services to its disabled users; [35038]

(8) if, in the event of Motability's articles being revoked, all assets acquired with grant in aid moneys would revert to his Department after all creditors claims had been met; and if he will make a statement. [35045]

Mr. Burt: The detailed conditions on payments of the grant in aid for administration are set out in the financial memorandum, a copy of which is in the Library. The financial memorandum contains a requirement that the charity should endeavour to provide best value for money for both the disabled customer and the tax payer. One method of providing would be through competitive tendering. The amounts paid in grant in aid to Motability in each of the last three years are given in the table.

£ million

Grant-in-aid	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
Mobility equipment fund	1.075	2.050	1.935
Administration	1.835	2.085	3.260
Total	2.910	4.135	5.195

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) if he will make a statement on the charitable status of the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust in relation to Motability Finance Ltd.'s charitable donations; and what sums of public money were involved in respect of the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust; [35041]

(2) if funds held in the Motability Finance Ltd. Contingency and Tenth Anniversary funds are considered to be assets acquired with grant-in-aid monies provided by his, or any other, Department; and if he will make a statement; [35044]

(3) if he will list the beneficiaries of Motability Finance Ltd.'s charitable donations in each year between 1990 and 1993; and what assessment his Department has made of the beneficiaries in allocating funding of motability for disabled people; [35042]

(4) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the arrangements for the auditing and accounting in respect of Motability Finance Ltd. in each year between 1988 and 1995; what assessment he has made of the independence of the senior auditor at KPMG responsible for the affairs of the charity; and if he will make a statement. [35035]

Mr. Burt: Motability Finance Ltd. is an independent company and its audit and accounting arrangements have to comply with company law. It is for MFL to make arrangements for auditing its accounts. It is not a matter for the charity.

Mr. Carlile: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) what discounts Motability users were offered in hire purchase and contract hire price lists sent to them in *(a)* 1992 and *(b)* 1995; what sums of public money were involved; and if he will make a statement; [35040]

(2) if he will make a statement on the status of Motability Finance Ltd. in relation to the Motability charity; and what assessment he has made of the status in determining the provision of public funds; [35043]

(3) if he will instruct independent experts to advise him as to the size of the discounts available to fleet leasing purchasers, in relation to the funding by his Department of the mobility of disabled people. [35047]

Mr. Burt: Motability Finance Ltd. is a supplier to the Motability scheme. It is a wholly separate organisation neither funded from, nor accountable to, the Department of Social Security. Motability's governors have the responsibility to ensure that suppliers to the scheme offer good value for money. Motability reviews its financial arrangements annually. The financial memorandum requires Motability to provide good value for money for its disabled customers.

Any questions on the discounts offered by manufacturers through the Motability scheme should be directed to Motability.

Disability Issues

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what plans he has to consult organisations representing people with learning difficulties in respect of the implementation of future disability discrimination legislation. [34831]

Mr. Burt: The Government intend to consult extensively over the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Bill. These consultations will include contact with organisations representing people with learning difficulties.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is his Department's policy towards making available publications concerning disability issues in pictorial and simple text format for people with learning difficulties. [34832]

Mr. Burt: The Disability Discrimination Bill will ensure that information, including Government information, is made more accessible to disabled people. This Department will comply with these requirements while ensuring that its information is accurate and unambiguous.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will make it his policy that any future disability discrimination legislation will be made available in pictures and will adopt a simple text format for people with learning difficulties. [34833]

Mr. Burt: The Disability Discrimination Bill will ensure that information, including Government information, is made more accessible to disabled people. The Government intend to publish information—in the simplest terms possible—explaining the provisions of the Bill once it receives Royal Assent. However, while every effort it made to ensure that legislation is as clear and understandable as possible, only an exact reproduction of parliamentary legislation can have any legal validity, and this is not achievable in pictorial form or in simple language.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what policies will be implemented in legislation to ensure that the right of people with learning difficulties are protected following the enactment of the Disability Discrimination Bill. [34836]

Mr. Burt: The Disability Discrimination Bill defines a disabled person as one who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. It will, therefore, protect those with learning difficulties who fall into this category by introducing new rights in employment and in relation to access to goods and services. The Bill also establishes a new National Disability Council and will ensure that advice and support is available to help disabled people secure their rights under the new legislation.

Child Care

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how much his Department spends on *(a)* child care provision for under-fives and *(b)* out-of-school provision for the over-fives, both directly, excluding provision for departmental staff, and indirectly through resources made available to local authorities and other organisations; what form of provision is provided; and how many full-time and part-time places are provided. [35551]

Mr. Roger Evans: In October 1994, we introduced help with child care charges in family credit, disability working allowance, housing benefit or council tax benefit. The scheme applies where the charges are incurred for a child under 11 who is cared for by a registered childminder, play scheme or day nursery. In the long term, we estimate 150,000 families will benefit, including 50,000 taking up work, and that the help will cost up to £60 million.

The new provisions will provide a substantial contribution to child care charges and increase the effectiveness of family credit, in particular, as an incentive for families to find and remain in employment.

Civil Servants

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35465]

Mr. Burt: The numbers of permanent industrial and non-industrial staff as at 1 April 1995 on a head-count basis were as follows:

	Male		*Female*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Benefits Agency	21,445	514	37,731	11,323
Child Support Agency	1,831	67	3,437	1,056
Contributions Agency	3,084	47	4,818	1,536
Information Technology Services Agency	2,262	1	1,179	161
Resettlement Agency	74	1	51	14
War Pensions Agency	374	8	821	149
DSS Headquarters and Independent Statutory Bodies	1,136	15	1,503	218
Total	30,206	653	48,540	14,457

The breakdown of staff by grade is as follows:

Grade (including equivalent professional and other grades)	*Male*		*Female*	
	Full time	*Part time*	*Full time*	*Part time*
Grade 1	1	0	0	0
Grade 2	3	0	1	0
Grade 3	12	0	4	0
Grade 4	7	0	2	0
Grade 5	84	0	22	3
Grade 6	263	12	71	22
Grade 7	522	0	158	12
Senior Executive Officer	982	5	360	18
Higher Executive Officer/Higher Executive Officer (D)	3,180	12	2,241	239
Executive Officer	9,520	126	11,346	3,546
Administrative Officer	11,691	297	27,236	8,418
Administrative Assistant	3,921	200	7,035	2,182
Other	20	1	64	17
Total	30,206	653	49,540	14,457

Note:
1. Staff on loan or secondment and not being paid by the Department.
2. Staff on unpaid leave for more than 3 months or on unpaid maternity leave.
3. Casual staff.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number of officials employed at each of the principal grades and the numbers and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the number and percentages of these staff that are women, in his Department and for each of its agencies for each year since 1985. [35685]

Mr. Burt: The information is not available in the form requested but details by grade and gender for the Department as a whole, including the executive agencies, can be found in table 5 of civil service statistics for each year from 1985 to 1994—copies available in the Library. Details for 1995 will be published later this year. I also refer the hon. Member to my reply today to the hon. Member for Durham, North-West (Ms Armstrong).

Mr. Donohue: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35671]

Mr. Burt: This Department is committed to equality of opportunity for all members of staff. It is also fully committed to the Cabinet Office programme for action to achieve equality of opportunity for women in the civil service. In addition, the Department was an early member of Opportunity 2000, a national campaign to improve the quantity of women's participation in the workplace

All parts of the Department, including its executive agencies, have equal opportunities action plans and all staff are encouraged to develop to their full potential. Women's development courses are widely available and all senior promotion panels include at least one woman.

The proportion of women is increasing at all management levels, women make up 67 per cent. of the Department and over half of all management grades. Over a quarter of the top three grades are currently held by women, two of the Department's agency chief executives are women and in September this year, the Department will have a female permanent secretary, Ann Bowtell.

Invalidity Benefit

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will make a statement on the current position of the appeal against the commissioner's decision concerning the rate of invalidity benefit paid to women after they reach pension age, with particular reference to the deliberations of the European Court of Justice; and when he expects the appeal to be *(a)* heard by the Court of Appeal and *(b)* concluded. [35705]

Mr. Burt: The hearing before the European Court of Justice took place on 6 April 1995 and the Advocate General's opinion was published on 15 June. The timing of the European Court's judgment, and of the subsequent hearing by the Court of Appeal, are matters for the courts.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what is the number of people present claiming invalidity benefit in the London borough of Wandsworth. [34075]

Mr. Burt: The administration of invalidity benefit is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefit Agency. He will write to the hon. Member with such information as is available.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the number of people claiming Invalidity Benefit in the London Borough of Wandsworth.

With effect from 13 April 1995, Invalidity Benefit (IVB) and Sickness Benefit were replaced by Incapacity Benefit (IB). Claims for IB from customers resident in the Borough of Wandsworth are

dealt with by the Benefits Agency (BA) South West Thames District. These claims are, however, processed at the BA Broadstairs Benefit Office which also administers IB claims for residents of London Central District.

Separate statistics relating to the numbers of IB customers resident in the Borough of Wandsworth are not kept and could only be available at disproportionate cost.

I am sorry that this reply could not be more helpful.

Mr. Hinchliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security when Mr. P. Sutton, national insurance number ZS 06 67 D, will receive information about the gross earning figures used to calculate his additional pension paid with invalidity benefit. [35152]

Mr. Burt: The administration of invalidity benefit is a matter for Mr. Ian Magee, the chief executive of the Benefits Agency. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. David Hinchliffe, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about when Mr. P. Sutton, national insurance number ZS 06 52 67 D, will receive information about the gross earnings figures used to calculate his additional pension paid with his Invalidity Benefit.

A full reply, informing Mr. Sutton of the earnings figures used in the calculation of his Invalidity Benefit and subsequent Incapacity Benefit, was issued on 14 July 1995.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Social Security Claimants

Sir Ralph Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) what are the latest figures indicating the number of social security claimants who are in employment and the weekly average level of benefit paid to this category; [36301]

(2) what are the latest figures for the number of social security claimants who are unemployed and the weekly average benefit paid to this category. [36302]

Mr. Evans: I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Sir Ralph Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what are the latest figures for the number of means-tested benefit claimants, broken down into those in receipt of income support, family credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit; and what have been the average weekly payment levels made to claimants in each category; and what were the figures for each year from 1990 to 1994. [36297]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The information is in the table. Figures relate to benefit units.

Column 1 provides the total number of benefits units in receipt of one or more means-tested benefit after overlaps have been taken into account. The remaining columns show the number of benefit units who receive each individual benefit and give the average amount of that benefit in payment.

	Number in receipt of one or more means-tested benefit 000s	*Number in receipt of Income Support 000s*	*Average weekly payment*	*Number in receipt of Family Credit 000s*	*Average weekly payment*	*Number in receipt of Housing Benefit 000s*	*Average weekly payment*	*Number in receipt of Council Tax Benefit 000s*	*Average weekly payment*	*Number in receipt of Community Charge Benefit 000s*	*Average weekly payment*	*Number in receipt of Disability Working Allowance 000s*	*Average weekly payment*
1990	8,090	4,180	38.52	315	28.23	3,975	21.48	0	0	6,500	5.53	0	0
1991	7,970	4,487	46.52	347	31.32	4,022	25.40	0	0	6,330	3.43	0	0
1992	8,410	5,088	51.89	397	37.69	4,320	30.03	0	0	6,550	4.23	0	0
1993	8,530	5,643	54.77	488	43.34	4,520	33.73	5,251	6.11	0	0	3	36.90
1994	8,480	5,675	55.78	551	47.10	4,650	36.55	5,497	6.38	0	0	4	42.38

Notes:

1. Figures for recipients are rounded to the nearest thousand except for "Numbers in receipt of one or more means-tested benefit" which have been rounded to the nearest ten thousand.
2. Average amounts for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit have been rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Figures are for benefit units which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Disability Working Allowance was introduced in April 1992.
5. Council Tax Benefit replaced Community Charge Benefit from April 1993.
6. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit figures exclude cases where there is no entitlement only because of non-dependent deductions.
7. Council Tax Benefit figures do not include second adult rebates.

Benefits

Mr. Pawsey: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to his answer of 17 July, what information he holds relating to the percentage of the population receiving funds from his Department. [36264]

Mr. Mitchell: Exact information in the form requested is not available but, in the 1993–94 family resources survey, 76 per cent. of responding households included at least one member in receipt of a benefit—including state retirement pension—at the time of interview. The survey relates to private households in Great Britain only and therefore excludes people in institutions like nursing homes and bed and breakfast accommodation. Although the survey is designed to be representative, survey responses are subject to biases which would have to be corrected to give a reliable estimate for the total population.

Social Fund

Sir Rhodes Boyson: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what plans he has to make changes to the discretionary social fund; and if he will make a statement. [36599]

Mr. Roger Evans: We are introducing some small amendments to the Secretary of State's directions and guidance on the help available for minor repairs and improvements from the discretionary fund, in the light of the proposed changes to the Social Security (Income Support and Claims and Payments) Amendment Regulations 1995 from 2 October 1995.

In addition, as part of our routine monitoring of the social fund, we have identified scope for some minor improvements to the Secretary of State's directions and guidance.

Details of the amendments and a revised copy of the Secretary of State's directions and guidance to take effect from 2 October 1995 have been placed in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. John Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what arrangements he proposes to make for the reorganisation of fraud investigations under the jobseeker's allowance. [36600]

Mr. Lilley: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Employment and I have agreed that, with the introduction of jobseeker's allowance, the work of fraud investigators in the Employment Service and the Benefits Agency will be brought together within the Benefits Agency, which is responsible for the financial aspects of the allowance.

Skin Disease

Mr. Congdon: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many working days are currently estimated to be lost as a result of skin disease. [35968]

Mr. Heald: The information is not available in the form requested. The only figure which can be provided relates to the number of days of certified incapacity where a claim has been made to sickness and/or invalidity benefit as a result of diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue.

In the period 6 April 1992 to 3 April 1993, this was 4,589,000.

Employers are not required to keep information on the nature of incapacity in statutory sick pay cases.

Source: based on a 1 per cent. sample of claims in the period 6 April 1992 to 3 April 1993 and rounded to the nearest thousand.

Note: diagnosis code group 52 from "International Classification of Diseases, 1975" has been used to compile the table.
Figures are for Great Britain.

Child Support Agency

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many man-hours were expended in total on Child Support Agency business in the financial year 1994–95; how many man hours were expended in total on matters relating to the Child Support Agency by staff within the Department of Social Security that are not employed by the Child Support Agency; and if he will give a breakdown of the figures. [34458]

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Miss Ann Chant. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Tony Ward to Ms Liz Lynne, dated 19 July 1995:

In the absence of Miss Chant, the Chief Executive, I am replying to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Social Security about man-hours expended on Child Support Agency business.

An estimated 8,674,568 man-hours were expended on Child Support Agency business by our own staff in Great Britain in the financial year 1994–95.

Information on the number of man-hours expended in total on matters relating to the Child Support Agency by staff within the Department of Social Security is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

I hope this is helpful.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security (1) what is the current number of Child Support Agency assessments in respect of which part, but not the whole, of the amount currently payable, excluding any arrears, is being actually received by the Child Support Agency itself; what is the average weekly amount currently payable, excluding any arrears, under these assessments; and how many of these assessments are interim assessments of category A or D; [34439]

(2) what is the current number of CSA assessments, other than nil assessments, in respect of which the full amount currently payable, excluding any arrears, is actually being received on a regular basis by the Child Support Agency itself; what is the average weekly amount currently payable, excluding any arrears, under these assessments; and how many of these assessments are interim assessments of category A or D. [34440]

Mr. Mitchell: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive Miss Ann Chant. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Tony Ward to Ms Liz Lynne, dated 19 July 1995:

I am replying to your Parliamentary Questions to the Secretary of State for Social Security about child maintenance paid in full or part, excluding any arrears.

You asked for this information broken down between full maintenance assessments and Category A and D interim maintenance assessments (IMAs). As Category D IMAs were only introduced in April this year and none have so far been issued, we have therefore assumed that you were interested in Category B IMAs which have been used since April 1993. These are imposed when the absent parent fails to provide information on a second partner's income.

Although the information is not available in the specific form you request, I hope you will find the following, which reflects the position as at 29 May, helpful. It relates to payments of regular maintenance and maintenance due for the period before the assessment was completed (known as the initial payment period).

	Full payment[1]	*Partial payment*[2]	*Average assessment*[3]
Full maintenance assessment[4]	25,676	55,943	[5]£43.46
Interim maintenance	5,756	12,921	£96.34

[1] Full means nothing due at 29 May 1995.
[2] Partial means at least one scheduled payment had been received.
[3] Data obtained from a one per cent. statistical sample carried out on 11 March 1995. Includes cases in which no payment has been made.
[4] Includes Category B interim maintenance assessments.
[5] Relates to cases in which the absent parent is in employment. Excludes absent parents on income support.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what will be the effect on manpower of moving some of the operations of Child Support Agency into local offices as stated in the agency's most recent business plan;

and what measures will be adopted to monitor the costs of such a development. [34459]

Mr. Mitchell: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Miss Ann Chant. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Tony Ward to Ms Liz Lynne, dated 19 July 1995:

In the absence of Miss Chant, the Chief Executive, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Social Security about the effect on manpower of moving some work into local child support offices.

As with any transfer of work within an organisation there will be a commensurate movement of resources. This will ensure that staff in local child support offices are properly equipped and trained to complete some maintenance assessments. Proper management controls will be in place to monitor costs arising from the movement of this work.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what changes he will be making to the Child Support Agency's computer system to allow assessments to be carried out in local offices; what will be the cost; who will be the contractor and how they will be chosen; what quality assurance measures will be taken; when the changes will be completed; and what measures are to be taken to guarantee the security of the system. [34457]

Mr. Mitchell: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Miss Ann Chant. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Tony Ward to Ms Liz Lynne dated 19 July 1995:

In the absence of Miss Chant, the Chief Executive, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Social Security about the changes to the Child Support Agency's computer system to maintenance assessments to be carried out locally.

Full access to the child support computer system which will allow staff in local offices to make some maintenance assessments will be introduced in early 1996 and we have asked the Information Technology Services Agency to arrange for this work to be carried out. Details such as the total cost of the plan, quality assurance, security of the system and final rollout will be addressed during the planning process.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was the number of Child Support Agency offices in the United Kingdom at 19 June. [34766]

Mr. Mitchell: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Miss Ann Chant. she will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Tony Ward to Mr. Tom Cox, dated 19 June 1995:

I am replying to your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Social Security about the number of Child Support Offices in the United Kingdom.

As at 19 June 1995 there were 320 local Child Support Agency offices in Great Britain. I am unable to provide you with information for the whole of the United Kingdom as the operations of the Agency in Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

I hope this is helpful.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will provide a monthly breakdown of the number of parents with care who cease to claim benefit within four weeks of intervention by the Child Support Agency. [34834]

Mr. Mitchell: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Miss Ann Chant. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Tony Ward to Ms Liz Lynne, dated 19 July 1995:

I am replying to your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Social Security about the number of parents with care who cease to receive benefit within four weeks of being contacted by the Child Support Agency.

During 1994/95 over 60,000 parents with care ceased their claim to Income Support within four weeks of action by the Child Support Agency. The table at annex A shows a monthly breakdown of this figure.

I hope this is helpful.

Cases where parent with care ceased to claim Income Support within four weeks of contact from the Child Support Agency: April 1994 to March 1995

Month	*Volume*
April	5,737
May	5,977
June	6,282
July	4,791
August	4,565
September	5,352
October	5,109
November	5,129
December	3,329
January	4,163
February	4,448
March	5,344
Total	60,226

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many forms 676 indicating that parents with care have been moved off benefit as a result of the payment of child support maintenance have been issued from the Child Support Agency to the Benefits Agency; and if he will provide a monthly breakdown for the financial year 1994 to 1995. [34835]

Mr. Mitchell: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Miss Ann Chant. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Tony Ward to Ms Liz Lynne, dated 19 July 1995:

In the absence of Miss Chant, the Chief Executive, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Social Security about the number of parents with care who have moved off benefit following the payment of child maintenance assessed by the Child Support Agency (Maintenance Cessations).

The information that you have requested is shown in the table below.

Month	*Maintenance Cessations*
April	614
May	403
June	905
July	1,378
August	655
September	560
October	451
November	975

Month	Maintenance Cessations
December	552
January	546
February	628
March	511
1994–95	8,178

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what percentage of hon. Members' queries to the Child Support Agency are fully answered within the time laid down in the Child Support Agency charter; and what percentage of the general public's queries are fully answered within the charter time. [35039]

Mr. Mitchell: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Miss Ann Chant. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Tony Ward to Mr. Ken Purchase, dated 19 July 1995:

In the absence of Miss Chant, the Chief Executive, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for Social Security about the Child Support Agency's performance in replying to correspondence.

The Agency does not use a charter standard for measuring the time taken to reply to MP's correspondence. Instead, it follows the Departmental target of replying to MP's letters within 20 days. The table below shows the performance against this target which highlights the improvements achieved over recent months.

Percentage

	1–20 days	21–40 days	Over 40 days
September 1994	14	55	31
May 1995	56	44	0

The Agency has a charter standard to reply to written enquiries from the public "within 10 working days". During 1994/95 the Agency replied to 35% of written enquiries within the charter standard.

I hope this is helpful.

Ms Lynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security, pursuant to his answer of 22 May, *Official Report*, column *432*, to the hon. Member for Newham, North-East (Mr. Timms) how the figure for benefit savings achieved by the Child Support Agency was arrived at; and if he will give a detailed breakdown. [27998]

Mr. Mitchell *[pursuant to the reply of the Minister of State for Social Security 12 June 1995, c. 492]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive, Miss Ann Chant. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ann Chant to Ms Liz Lynne, dated 19 July 1995:

I wrote to you in reply on 13 June in reply to PQ2406/1993/94 which concerned the benefit savings achieved by the Child Support Agency during 1994/95.

Unfortunately there was a small typographical error in the annex attached to my letter. The entry in the table "Income Support exceeded rate of benefit" should have read "Maintenance exceeded rate of benefit". Please find a corrected copy of the table attached.

Please accept my apologies for this error.

Category of benefit savings	Amount (£ million)
Resulting from pre-CSA assessments:	
Paid direct by absent parent to parent with care	119.52
Paid through Agency collection service to Secretary of State	7.00
Resulting from CSA assessments:	
Paid direct by absent parent to parent with care	13.76
Paid through Agency collection service to Secretary of state	47.94
Deductions from income support payments made to absent parents	2.38
Income Support claim cessation:	
Maintenance exceeded rate of benefit	23.83
Income support claim withdrawn within 4 weeks of CSA action	199.53
Reductions in Family Credit or Disability Working allowance resulting from CSA assessments	12.84
Housing benefit/Council tax reductions resulting from CSA assessments	52.25
Total	479.05

Contributions Agency

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security if he will publish the internal guidance that is currently available to local DSS staff which enables them to determine whether a person should be regarded as employed or self-employed. [34572]

Mr. Heald: The administration of the Contributions Agency is a matter for Mrs. Faith Boardman, the chief executive. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mrs. Faith Boardman to Mr. Ian McCartney, dated 19 July 1995:

As Chief Executive of the Contributions Agency, I have responsibility for answering questions about operational matters relating to the Agency and the National Insurance (NI) scheme. I have been asked to reply to your question about the publication of the internal guidance which enables staff to determine whether a person should be regarded as employed or self-employed.

The Agency has decided against publishing its current internal guidance at this time because there appears to be little likelihood of sufficient demand for a sight of them to warrant the cost of formal publication. But under the Government's Code of Practice we will respond to any individual request for copies of our internal guidance; and we intend to keep the options under review in the light of demand.

I hope this reply proves helpful. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Home Visits

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what are the present circumstances and conditions under which officials from his Department evaluate a home visit to claimant as necessary; and what plans he has for changes in procedures as a result of his announced proposals to reduce benefit abuse. [35369]

Mr. Roger Evans: Home visits are the responsibility of the chief executives of the Benefits Agency and of the War Pensions Agency, who will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Ian Magee to Mr. Roger Godsiff, dated 18 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked me to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the reasons for home visits by officials of the Department and the planned changes in procedures.

Benefits such as Child Benefit, Family Credit, Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Disability Working Allowance, Attendance Allowance (AA), Invalid Care Allowance, Disablement Benefits and Retirement Pensions are centrally administered by the Benefits Agency (BA) and if a home visit is required BA District staff are locally based to carry them out. A visit may be appropriate if a customer is having difficulty in completing their claim form, perhaps because of illness or disability or because a customer has failed to return an order book that had been requested.

As well as carrying out visits for centrally administered benefits, BA District staff routinely visit customers in connection with claims to Income Support (IS), Social Fund, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance. As a result of the announced proposals to reduce benefit abuse 300,000 additional home visits will be made on new claims for IS during the financial year 1995/96. An additional 187,500 home visits will be made to customers currently in receipt of IS. These home visits will be targeted at claims where there is a significant risk that they are incorrect. The criteria for these visits has been determined through a detailed examination of the outcome of a number of home visits. The aim is not only to reduce benefit abuse but also to reduce customer error and errors by the BA. It will also allow the BA to identify circumstances in which customers are entitled to additional Social Security benefits.

The Benefits Agency Medical Service (BAMS) doctors conduct medical examinations in connection with claims for DLA and AA in the customer's own home in order to assess needs within the home environment. Most other claims for benefit that require a medical examination are carried out at the Medical Service's examination centres. A BAMS Medical advisor will consider the available evidence and recommend a home examination if in his opinion it is required because of the customer's medical condition.

Annex A outlines the existing criteria for visits to customers claiming locally administered benefits. This list is not exhaustive. Priority would always be given to visits that involved questions of benefit entitlement. Attached at Annexes B and C are the additional criteria applied to new and existing IS claims from which cases may be selected for home visits.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Existing criteria for visit by BA staff *Annex A*

The customer is unable to complete a postal claim form or Social Fund application and is not able to attend the office for interview.

The customer, excluding those that are required to be available and actively seeking work, requests a visit after the issue of a claim form, even if the form has been completed.

Difficulties are revealed which cannot be resolved by any other method.

In IS cases where a routine case check is due in respect of pensioners appointees.

The customer, excluding those that are required to be available and actively seeking work, fails to return a review form A2.

It is the only way of verifying the customer's identity and/or address or the validity of the claim.

Appointee action is required, if a customer is unable to handle their own affairs.

A visit to a customer with a chronic or mental illness who has for no apparent reason stopped submitting medical evidence.

The case is included in the random selection of claims made under Trade Dispute procedures.

The case is selected for a random check.

Visits to UK nationals who are approaching 100 years of age.

Retrieval of order books when postal methods have failed.

Where there is suspicion of fraud or other irregularity.

Additional criteria for visits on new IS claims *Annex B*

Unexplained background to claim or claim incomplete.

Number of children inconsistent with the amount of Child Benefit declared.

Customer has no National Insurance Number.

Customer has recently separated from partner.

Customer has no fixed address, claim form gives address but customer states he is not residing there.

Customer requests that their claim is backdated more than one month.

Customer indicates on their claim form that the Habitual Residence Test is appropriate.

Customer lives at a multi occupancy address or address where there are problems with the postal arrangements.

Customer may be living as husband and wife with another person not declared as their partner.

Additional criteria for visits on current IS claims *Annex C*

Customer is a Lone Parent and not receiving One Parent Benefit.

Child Benefit inconsistent with the number of children the customer is claiming for.

Non-householders aged 25 to 35.

Customer, or their partner, was self employed prior to claiming IS.

Customer, or their partner, is currently self employed.

Customer, or their partner, is working as an employed earner.

Customer, or their partner, has income other than earnings or other Social Security Benefit.

Customer is over 75 years of age.

Payment of IS is made by Automated Credit Transfer (ACT).

Letter from Brian Sweet to Mr. Roger Godsiff, dated 19 July 1995:

The Secretary of State for Social Security has asked Peter Mathison, Chief Executive of the War Pensions Agency, to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about home visits. Mr. Mathison is away from the office today and has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Within the War Pensions Agency, home visits are carried out by the War Pensioners' Welfare Service (WPWS). The visiting policy of the WPWS was agreed by consultation with staff, ex-service organisations and War Pensions Committee members and sanctioned by the Central Advisory Committee following ministerial approval.

The policy is as follows:

1. To respond to requests for assistance within set target times.

2. To visit war widows pensioners aged 60 plus, assessed at 30 per cent. or more disabled and all widows aged 60 plus.

3. To visit all current invaliding cases.

4. To visit all war widows within 6 weeks of the receipt of notification of a pensioner's death.

5. To offer a visit to all inter-war cases by arrangement with the Ministry of Defence.

6. To offer a visit to all pensioners whose accepted disablement suggests:

a) life threatening condition

b) attendance/mobility needs

c) psychiatric disorder

d) greater disablement.

A standard formula is in use to fully evaluate the visit and an action plan is produced, for resolution of any problems, in each case.

There are no plans for changes in WPWS procedures as a result of the Secretary of State for Social Security's proposals to reduce benefit fraud; as such matters are dealt with by the Benefits Agency on our behalf.

Mr. Dewar: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security how many home visits have been made by Benefits Agency staff in the course of their duties in the latest period for which figures are available; and what were the equivalent figures *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* 15 years ago. [34444]

Mr. Roger Evans *[holding answer 14 June 1995]:* I am unable to provide the figures for all of the home visits we make as the figures on some areas of work are not collated nationally.

I have, however, attached at annex A a table giving the available figures. It includes income support visits for all the periods requested and contributory benefits visits for the year April 1994 to March 1995 only.

Annex A

	April 1994–March 1995	*April 1991–March 1992*	*April 1989–March 1990*	*April 1984–March 1985*	*April 1979–March 1980*
Effective IS visits	498,819	552,191	803,795	3,001,362	6,686,752
Effective CB visits	49,186	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

IS Income Support CB Contributory Benefit
Data is provisional and is subject to amendment.

Retirement Pension

Mr. Harry Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Social Security what was his most recent estimate of the average sum paid to *(a)* female pensioners and *(b)* male pensioners over their period of entitlement; and if he will make a statement. [33086]

Mr. Heald *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The information is not available in the form requested. An estimate of the average amount of retirement pension paid over their lifetimes to *(a)* male pensioners retiring now at 65 and *(b)* single female pensioners (never married) retiring now at 60 is given in the table.

Estimated RP receipt[1]

1994 prices

	Age in 1994	*Average receipt in 1994*	*Average lifetime*[2] *receipt*[3]
Male[4]	65	£73.79 per week	£61,800
Female, never married	60	£62.72 per week	£78,900

[1] RP includes Basic RP, SERPS and GRADS. Dependent additions are excluded.
[2] Life expectancies are for GB.
[3] Individuals are assumed not to suffer any change in circumstances, marital or otherwise, which may affect pension entitlement. RP is assumed to be uprated in line with prices.
[4] Excluding widowers.

SCOTLAND

National Roads Directorate

Sir Hector Monro: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has reached a conclusion on the prior options study of the Scottish Office National Roads Directorate and whether he will make a statement. [36602]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: The prior options study examined a number of options for the future conduct of the management of the trunk road network. It took into account that, over a number of years, the Scottish Office has successfully pursued a series of policies which have increased the level of private sector involvement in the directorate's activities, through contracting out and the development of new contract forms. The directorate made a valuable contribution to the study through identification of further scope for private sector involvement, some of which is already being pursued. The study concluded that this can best be achieved by retaining the National Roads Directorate within the Scottish Office. I do not therefore propose to create a next steps executive agency.

Past policy development in relation to trunk roads has been consistent with next steps principles; and the directorate will seek to extend the application to its work of those principles as developed in "Taking Forward Continuity and Change", Cm 2748.

Local Government Reorganisation

Sir Hector Monro: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the framework which is being proposed for the transfer of property on 1 April 1996 from existing councils to their successors. [36603]

Mr. Kynoch: The Scottish Office is today issuing for consultation a draft order which sets out the arrangements by which it is proposed that existing local authority property should transfer on 1 April 1996 to the new councils, joint boards and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration. I am placing copies of the draft order in the Library. Views on the draft property transfer order have been invited by 14 August 1995. The finalised order will be laid before Parliament as soon as possible thereafter.

It is proposed that, wherever possible, new councils should come together to agree on the allocation of property. I hope that most property will be allocated in this way but I acknowledge that this may not always be possible. Accordingly my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be setting up a small independent property commission which will be charged with determining the authority to which disputed property should be transferred. The draft order contains proposals for the principles to which the commission should adhere in making its determinations. It is intended that the property commission will be set up from September 1995. Consideration is currently being given to its membership and precise remit.

Veterinary Services

Sir Hector Monro: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what progress has been made on reviewing the Highlands and Islands veterinary services scheme and if he will make a statement. [36604]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: A review of this scheme has been completed and revised arrangements, which have been agreed with the British Veterinary Association, will be introduced which will ensure the availability of an adequate veterinary service at reasonable cost to crofters and persons of like economic status in the former crofting counties in respect of animals kept for agricultural purposes. Grants paid to participating veterinary practices will include mileage grant, supplementary travel grant and, in certain of the western islands, difficult area practice grant. The standard visit fee to be paid by the crofters will also be increased to £12.50.

I am very glad that we have been able to introduce this revised scheme of assistance towards the provision of veterinary services to crofters. It will protect animal health and welfare and contribute to improving the productivity of livestock which is of such importance to the economy of the crofting areas. The scheme targets resources at the areas where there is greatest need and makes provision for additional veterinary practices to join the scheme.

The revised scheme will be introduced with effect from 1 April 1995. Further details have been placed in the Library of the House.

Trade Missions

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the occasions on which he and his ministerial colleagues have been on overseas trade missions in *(a)* 1992–93, *(b)* 1993–94 and *(c)* 1994–95; how many such visits are programmed for 1995–96; and if he will give the out-turn, estimated or anticipated cost for each year. [19219]

Mr. Kynoch: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials, to public funds for each year since 1992.

Mr. Michael Forsyth: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Electronic Data Systems

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the contracts his Department has with the computer company EDS. [33172]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: The Scottish Office has no contracts with EDS—Electronic Data Systems.

Departmental Staff (Shareholdings)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department or its agencies have *(a)* declared any company shareholdings they hold or *(b)* been advised to dispose of shareholdings in the past five years, indicating the companies concerned. [33424]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: None.

Civil Servants (Party Political Activity)

Mr. McMaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what rules apply to the provision by his Department, including his special advisers, of advice, briefing notes, draft speeches or other information to Conservative Members; what such material has been made available in the last two years; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Michael Forsyth: It is an established principle that civil servants should not engage in activities likely to call in question their political impartiality, or to give rise to criticism that officials paid for out of public funds are being used for party-political purposes.

Accordingly, the following rules apply:

(a) civil servants in their official capacity are prohibited from attending conferences arranged by political parties;

(b) they may not attend meetings of policy or subject groups of the parliamentary parties;

(c) they may not attend all-party subject groups or committees except to accompany a Minister and to respond to factual questions;

(d) these rules need not inhibit factual briefings by officials of MPs on overseas or regional visits;

(e) Ministers may also arrange factual briefing by officials, for MPs of one party provided that a Minister attends the meeting and similar facilities are offered to MPs of other parties;

(f) Ministers should always be present when MPs are to discuss sensitive areas of public policy with officials.

Written briefing material provided by officials to Ministers may be distributed to Back-Bench Members provided that it would be released to any genuine inquirer and that hon. Members of all parties may have access to it.

The rules do not prevent agency chief executives and managers of local offices, with the Minister's approval, from communicating with hon. Members about problems of individual constituents.

A record of the material made available to hon. Members could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Civil Servants (Party Political Activity)

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions over any recent convenient period he has granted leave to civil servants, at a level to be in contact with himself as Secretary of State, to participate in party political activity. [33004]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* None.

Consultants

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) if he will indicate which five consultancy firms have received most contracts from his Department *(a)* by number of contracts and *(b)* monetary value in the last five years for which figures are available; [33435]

(2) if he will estimate the cost of employing consultants in connection with privatisation programmes in which his Department has been engaged since 1980; [33454]

(3) how many contracts his Department has had with consultants; and what has been the total cost in each of the last five years. [33565]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: The information requested is currently not held centrally and is therefore not available. Steps are, however, being taken to establish a central record of such information.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thornton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and *(i)* Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33908]

Mr. Forsyth: The information requested is currently not held centrally and is therefore not available. Steps are, however, being taken to establish a central record of such information.

Guidance to staff considering the use of external consultants is available from my Department's efficiency unit and purchasing and supply division.

Woodland Grant Scheme

Mr. Macdonald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list all recipients of woodland grant scheme payment over £1,000 in Scotland in 1993–94 by *(a)* name, *(b)* location of woodland, *(c)* amount and *(d)* date paid. [33758]

Mr. Kynoch: I have arranged for a list to be placed in the Library.

Fisheries

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the total catch of *(a)* sandeels and *(b)* other fish in the Shetland sandeel fishery during 1995. [34128]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: In total 1,165 tonnes of sandeels were caught and under 10 tonnes of by-catch taken from the Shetland sandeel fishery during 1995.

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many vessels fished, and for how many days in 1995, within 5 km of the special protection areas *(a)* around Noss, *(b)* around Foula and *(c)* in Mousa Sound; [34130]

(2) what was the total catch of sandeels during 1995 within 5 km of the special protection areas *(a)* around Noss, *(b)* around Foula and *(c)* in Mousa Sound. [34129]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The information requested cannot be provided as fisheries statistics are not collected in this form.

Departments of Employment and Education (Merger)

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the effect of the Department of Employment and Department of Education merger for the Scottish Education Department; and what responsibilities the Secretary of State for Scotland will take over from the Department of Employment.

Mr. Michael Forsyth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister today.

Water Pollution

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many cases of water pollution have been recorded in each year of the last five years, by region. [34630]

Mr. Kynoch: Statistics recording the number of water pollution incidents for 1992–93 and 1993–94 are set out below for each river purification board area in Scotland. Figures for earlier years are not available on a comparable basis.

	1992–93	*1993–94*
Clyde	1,036	791
Forth	711	622
Highland	271	283
North east	324	439
Solway	238	347
Tay	289	394
Tweed	151	205

Departmental Computer Equipment

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the top 10 suppliers of computer equipment to his Department and its agencies in the last five years, indicating the total value of the contracts received. [34560]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Redundancies

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the past 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34613]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: There were 159 redundancies in my Department in 1994–95, all of which were voluntary.

The costs of redundancies are met from the Department's running costs provision and accounted for along with the costs of various forms of early retirement.

A breakdown of the costs of redundancy alone could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, the gross cost to the Scottish Office in 1994–95 of all early leavers was £2.4 million including £0.9 million for the Scottish Prison Agency. This sum will be more than offset over time by consequential salary savings as staff numbers reduce.

Agricultural Subsidies

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the cost of the sheep annual premium scheme in 1994–95; what proportion of the United Kingdom figure this represents; and if he will make a statement. [35123]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The estimated outturn for the financial year 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995 is £90.1 million. This represents 22.7 per cent. of the United Kingdom total.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the estimated cost of the beef special premium scheme for 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34989]

Mr. Robertson: Payments under the beef special premium scheme in Scotland in the financial year 1994–95 totalled £27.4 million.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the estimated cost of the Suckler Cow Premium Scheme for 1994–95; and if he will make a statement. [34990]

Mr. Robertson: The estimated outturn for the financial year 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995 is £48.7 million.

Mr. Tipping: to ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list by region the number of landowners receiving payments under the arable area payments scheme of *(a)* less than £25,000, *(b)* between £25,000 and £50,000, *(c)* between £50,000 and £1 million and *(d)* above £1 million, for the latest year for which figures are available. [35361]

Mr. Robertson: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Maclennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the number of producers excluded from the 1994 suckler cow premium scheme by virtue of late submission of an application. [35720]

Mr. Robertson: Four applications under the 1994 suckler cow premium scheme were formally lodged with the Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department after the final date for receipt of valid applications.

European Regional Development Fund

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what aspects of European regional development fund moneys channelled through the Scottish Office were the subject of the recent inquiry by the EU Regional Aid Commissioner; what information was provided by the Scottish Office in response; and if he will make a statement. [35140]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Scottish National Heritage

Mr. Galbraith: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to his answer of 29 June, *Official Report*, column *790*, if he will list the *(a)* conservation bodies, *(b)* farmers, *(c)* landowners, *(d)* countryside sports body and *(e)* other bodies addressed by the chairman of Scottish National Heritage since its inception.

Mr. Kynoch: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Agri-environment Programme

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he intends to review the operation and effectiveness of the agri-environment measures operating in Scotland. [34845]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: All aspects of the operation and effectiveness of the agri-environment measures are kept under review.

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will outline his policy towards environmentally sensitive areas; for what reasons farmers and crofters in Scotland are subject to financial limits on the annual environmentally sensitive area payments they receive; and what plans he has to harmonise their treatment to accord with practice in the rest of the United Kingdom. [34843]

Mr. Robertson: The environmentally sensitive areas scheme is an important part of Scotland's agri-environmental programme and has operated since 1987, for the benefit of many farmers and crofters and Scotland's unique natural heritage. The financial limits are designed to ensure that the resources available for the scheme are not absorbed by a small number of large farms at the expense of smaller units which could demonstrate conservation benefits. The scheme has been tailored specifically to reflect Scottish conditions and I have no plans to harmonise the detail of the scheme to accord with the approach adopted elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what community environmental objectives will be met by the agri-environment programme in Scotland as required by article 3.3(c) of the EU Agri-Environment Regulations 2078/92. [34846]

Mr. Robertson: The objectives of the environmentally sensitive areas scheme, the heather moorland scheme, the habitats scheme, the organic aid scheme and the set-aside access scheme are in compliance with respectively, article 2.1(a), (b), (c), (d) and (g), 2.1(c) and (d), 2,1(f), 2.1(a) and (d) and 2.1 (g) of regulation (EEC) 2078/92.

In addition, the environmentally sensitive areas scheme, the heather moorland scheme and the habitats scheme also reflect the objectives of the habitats directive—92/43/EEC—and the birds directive—79.409/EEC.

Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the contribution of alcoholic drinks production to the Scottish gross domestic product in the latest year for which figures are available, and if he will make a statement. [34983]

Mr. Kynoch: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the annual budget for each of the Scottish environmentally sensitive areas, the number of agreements approved to date in each environmentally sensitive area and the number remaining to be processed; and if he expects the budget to be fully spent in 1995–96. [34842]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: Financial provision for the environmentally sensitive areas scheme as a whole in Scotland for 1995–96 is £5.7 million. Funds are not allocated to individual environmentally sensitive areas. The number of plans approved in each area and the number under consideration as at the end of May are set out in the table:

	Number of ESA plans approved	*Number of ESA plans under consideration*
Breadalbane	177	17
Loch Lomond	68	6
Stewartry	240	24
Central Borders (formerly Whitelaw and Eildon)	35	10
Machair of the Uists and Benbecula Barra and Vatersay	612	52
Central Southern Uplands	115	34
Western Southern Uplands	51	32
Cairngorms Straths	14	30
Argyll Islands	55	36
Shetland Islands	14	13
Total	1,381	254

It is too early to say whether the budget for 1995–96 will be fully utilised.

Mr. McFall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate the number of staff hours taken up in assessing whether applications breach the financial limits on annual payments in environmentally sensitive areas, indicating how much time elapses, on average, between receipt of environmentally sensitive area applications and their approval. [34844]

Mr. Robertson: There is an automatic computer check on the extent to which applications comply with the specified financial limits but this is only one of many aspects covered in the assessment process and it is not possible to estimate how much time is devoted to any single part of the process. The average period of time between receipt of an acceptable application and the issue of an offer of agreement is 111 days.

Algrade Trust

Mr. Home-Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement on the consideration of the affairs of the Algrade trust by the Scottish Charities Office; if he will make further provision to improve the accommodation and care of residents on the trust's premises at Humbie; and if the Crown Office intends to take any action against the former trustees. [34773]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Housing

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many houses in Scotland were affected by *(a)* dampness and *(b)* condensation in the last year for which figures are available. [35220]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: Local authorities estimated that the number of public sector houses affected by *(a)* dampness total 55,554 and *(b)* condensation total 142,684 as at 31 March 1994.

Information for Scottish Homes and the new town is not held centrally.

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many houses in Scotland were classified as below the tolerable standard in the last year for which figures are available. [35221]

Mr. Robertson: The latest available information on the number of houses in Scotland below the tolerable standard is published in the statistical bulletin HSG/1994/8 "Dwellings below the Tolerable Standard (BTS) in Scotland: Estimates by Local Authorities for March 1994 and Details of Action on such Dwellings". This bulletin is available in the Library.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the Government guidelines or circulars issued by his Department to islands councils and district councils in Scotland since 1 January 1993 relating to the discharge of these councils' functions as housing authorities. [35711]

Mr. Raymond Robertson: The list of guidelines or circulars issued by the housing group of the Scottish Office Environment Department since 1 January 1993 to district and islands councils in Scotland is as follows:

Date	*Guidelines/Circulars*
1993	
ENV 7/1993	Local Authorities Etc (Allowances) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1993.
ENV 12/1993	New Style Housing Plans, Annual Policy Statements and Housing Capital Programmes.
ENV 14/1993	Guidance on Strategic Priorities and Option Appraisal in Housing Investment.
ENV 15/1993	Housing and Community Care: Bridging Finance.
ENV 19/1993	Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993: Commencement of Provisions Relating Exclusively to Scotland.
ENV 20/1993	Extension of Rent to Mortgage Scheme to Local Authority Tenants
ENV 21/1993	Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993: Commencement of Part II, Chapter II Provisions.

Date	Guidelines/Circulars
ENV 24/1993	Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993: Commencement Order and Associated Orders.
ENV 26/1993	Housing for People Leaving the Armed Forces.
1994	
ENV 2/1994	Housing and Crime Prevention.
ENV 8/1994	Right to Compensation for Improvements.
ENV 12/1994	Right to Repair.
ENV 23/1994	Housing Management Plans.
ENV 27/1994	Community Care—The Housing Dimension.
ENV 30/1994	Improvement and Repairs Grant System: Aims and Objectives.
ENV 32/1994	Housing (Scotland) Act 1987: Part XIV: Defective Housing Ending of Scheme of Assistance.
September 1993	Refurbishment Contracts: Guidelines for the more effective involvement of tenants in the repair and improvement of their homes. Tenant Feedback: A Step-by-Step Guide to Tenant Satisfaction Surveys.
1993–95	A series of 5 Housing Management Good Practices Notes on Rent Collection and Rent Accounting, Rent Arrears Management, Void Management, Tenant Participation and Tenancy Management.
1994	9 reports of pilot studies carried out in England by the Department of the Environment on housing management CCT covering aspects including organisational change, tenants consultation, contract specification and information technology.
May 1995	Housing Management CCT—Issues for Authorities with Dispersed or Sparse Housing Stock.

Unemployment

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many registered unemployed there were in Scotland on the latest date for which figures are available; and what was the equivalent figure for 1979. [35226]

Mr. Kynoch: In June 1995, seasonally adjusted claimant unemployment in Scotland was 197,600. The equivalent figure in 1979 was 138,500.

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many registered unemployed there were who had been out of work for more than a year in Scotland on the latest date for which figures are available; and what was the equivalent figure for 1979. [35227]

Mr. Kynoch: In April 1995, 70,100 people in Scotland had been claimant unemployed for more than a year.

An equivalent figure for 1979 is not available.

Nurses

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many nurses in training there were in Scotland in each year since 1979; [35652]

(2) how many nurses were employed in the Scottish NHS in each year since 1979. [35651]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Residential and Nursing Homes

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what were the numbers of people being cared for in private nursing homes and private residential homes for the elderly in Scotland in *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1990 and *(c)* the last year for which figures are available. [35655]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The table shows the available information:

	1985	*1987*	*1990*	*1993*	*1994*
Private nursing homes	n/a	[1]5,063	[1]10,311	[1]17,012	15,676
Private residential homes for the elderly	901	1,960	3,195	3,295	n/a

[1] Number of places.

The earliest year for which information is available for private residential homes is 1985 and 1987 for nursing homes.

Police Force

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is *(a)* the establishment and *(b)* the manpower of each police force in Scotland in terms of (i) numbers of police officers and (ii) numbers of civilian support staff as at (1) 1 April 1994 and (2) 1 April 1995. [34322]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information requested is set out in the table.

	Police establishment	*Police strength*[1]	*Civilian establishment*[2]	*Civilian strength*[2]
At 1 April 1994				
Central	650	658	203	173
Dumfries and Galloway	384	386	177	147
Fife	780	791	273	237
Grampian	1,178	1,193	479	422
Lothian and Borders	2,522	2,558	1,183	965
Northern	654	658	352	321

	Police establishment	Police strength[1]	Civilian establishment[2]	Civilian strength[2]
Strathclyde	6,954	6,860	2,066	1,548
Tayside	1,079	1,070	438	364
Total	14,201	14,174	5,171	4,177
At 1 April 1995				
Central	652	656	217	185
Dumfries and Galloway	384	391	177	162
Fife	780	789	284	235
Grampian	1,178	1,194	487	427
Lothian and Borders	2,522	2,539	1,222	1,003
Northern	654	649	368	318
Strathclyde	6,954	7,014	2,231	1,618
Tayside	1,085	1,091	464	399
Total	14,209	14,323	5,450	4,347

[1] Includes officers on secondment.
[2] Includes traffic wardens, clerical and technical staff, cadets, domestics, cleaners, and part-time staff.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the current ratio of police officers to civilian support staff in *(a)* each police force in Scotland and *(b)* overall in Scotland. [34323]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information is as follows:

Force	Ratio of police officers to civilian support staff at 1 April 1995
Central	3.5:1
Dumfries and Galloway	2.4:1
Fife	3.3:1
Grampian	2.8:1
Lothian and Borders	2.5:1
Northern	2.0:1
Strathclyde	4.3:1
Tayside	2.7:1
Scotland	3.3:1

Police numbers include officers on secondment. Civilian numbers include traffic wardens, clerical and technical staff, cadets, domestics, cleaners (except in the case of Strathclyde where cleaning services have been contracted out) and part-time staff.

Human Rights

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if his Department or the Lord Advocate were consulted on Scottish issues in connection with the Government's fourth periodic report to the United Nations Human Rights Committee. [34669]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The Scottish office was fully involved in the preparation of the United Kingdom's fourth periodic report to the human rights committee under article 40 of the international covenant on civil and political rights.

Wildlife

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the globally endangered and endemic species of wildlife found in Scotland and their current conservation status; and what sum is currently being spent by Scottish Natural Heritage on safeguarding these species. [34924]

Mr. Kynoch: The information requested is given below:

List of globally threatened and threatened endemic species occurring in Scotland

Globally threatened species	Common name	Red data book status
Fungi		
Tulostoma niveum	—	Vulnerable
Lichens		
Collema dichotomum	River jelly lichen	Vulnerable
Schistmatoma graphidioides	—	Vulnerable
Bryophytes		
Lejeuna mandonii	—	Endangered
Gymnostonum insigne	—	(Localised)
Vascular plants		
Artemisia norvegica	Norwegian mugwort	Rare
Euphrasia spp (x5)	Eyebrights	Rare
Trichomanes speciosum	Killarney fern	Endangered
Invertebrates		
Hirudo medicinalis	Medicinal leech	Rare
Margaritifera margaritifera	Freshwater pearl mussel	Scarce
Formica aquilonia	—	Scarce
Formica lugubris	—	Scarce
Vertigo angustior	—	Endangered
Vertigo genesii	—	Endangered
Vertigo geyeri	—	Endangered
Herpetofauna		
Dermochelyidae/ Cheloniidae (x4)	Marine turtles	Endangered
Birds		
Crex Crex	Corncrake	Red data book listed
Mammals		
Delphinapterus leucas	white whale, beluga	Insufficiently known
Monodon monoceros	narwhal	Insufficiently known
Phocoena phocoena	harbour porpoise	Insufficiently known

List of globally threatened and threatened endemic species occurring in Scotland

Globally threatened species	*Common name*	*Red data book status*
Lagenorhynchus albirostris	white-beaked dolphin	Insufficiently known
Lagenorhynchus acutus	Atlantic white-sided dolphin	Insufficiently known
Grampus griseus	Risso's dolphin	Insufficiently known
Tursiops truncatus	bottlenose dolphin	Insufficiently known
Stenella coeruleoalba	striped dolphin	Insufficiently known
Delphinus delphis	common dolphin	Insufficiently known
Pseudorca crassidens	false killer whale	Insufficiently known
Orcinus orca	killer whale	Insufficiently known
Globicephala melas	long-finned pilot whale	Insufficiently known
Mesoplodon bidens	Sowerby's beaked whale	Insufficiently known
Mesoplodon densirostris	Blainville's beaked whale	Insufficiently known
Mesoplodon nurus	True's beaked whale	Insufficiently known
Ziphius cavirostris	Cuvier's beaked whale	Insufficiently known
Hyperoodon ampullatus	northern bottlenose whale	Insufficiently known
Physeter macrocephalus	sperm whale	Insufficiently known
Kogia breviceps	pygmy sperm whale	Insufficiently known
Eubalaena glacialis	northern right whale	Endangered
Balaenoptera acutorostrata	minke whale	Insufficiently known
Balaenoptera borealis	sei whale	Vulnerable
Balaenoptera musculus	blue whale	Endangered
Balaenoptera physalus	fin whale	Vulnerable
Megaptera novaeangliae	humpback whale	Vulnerable
Threatened endemics		
Bryophytes		
Bryoerythrophyllum caledonicum[2]	—	(Localised)
Pictus scoticus[2]	—	Data deficient
Pohlia scotica[2]	—	(Localised)
Spagnum Skyense[2]	—	Data deficient
Bryum dixonii[2]	—	Scarce
Fossombronia fimbriata[1]	—	Scarce
Algae		
Chara muscosa (possibly extinct)	Mossy Stonewort	Indeterminate
Vascular plants		
Athyrium flexile[2]	Newman's lady fern	Scarce
Calamagrostis scotica[2]	Scottish small-reed	Vulnerable
Cerastium nigrescens[2]	Shetland mouse-ear	Rare
Cochlearia micacea[2]	Mountain scurvy-grass	Rare
Epipactis youngiana[2]	Young's helleborine	Vulnerable
Senecio cambrensis[2]	Welsh groundsel	Rare
Primula scotica[2]	Scots primrose	Scarce
Invertebrates		
Procas granulicollis	—	Indeterminate
Thinobius newberyi	a rove beetle	Vulnerable
Aricia artaxerxes	northern brown argus	Scarce

List of globally threatened and threatened endemic species occurring in Scotland

Globally threatened species	*Common name*	*Red data book status*
Birds		
Loxia scotica	Scottish crossbill	Red data book listed

[1] Endemic to Britain and Ireland rather than Britain alone.[2] Species that occur in Scotland only.
NB. The sea mammals listed are those which have been recorded in the UK. Few actually breed in UK waters.

During the financial year 1994–95 the amount spent by Scottish Natural Heritage—SNH—on safeguarding these species was £66,000. For the year 1995–96, the amount allocated is £120,000. The 1995–96 figures include expenditure under SNH's species action programme.

Homelessness

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what consideration has been given to extending the coverage of the rough sleepers initiative to Scotland; [34928]

(2) what is the amount of public funding which has been specifically targeted on people sleeping rough in Scotland in each year since 1991–92; and how many units of accommodation have been provided through such funding. [34925]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: Information is not available centrally on publicly funded services provided specifically for rough sleepers by housing, health and social work agencies, including voluntary bodies receiving grants from public funds. Facilities for rough sleepers are usually also used by other categories of homeless people; though some will be of particular benefit to rough sleepers, for example temporary accommodation and drop-in centres. We would expect local housing authorities, which have the primary statutory responsibility for tackling homelessness, to give particular priority to assisting those who are, or are at risk of, sleeping rough, and to work closely with other agencies. Future policy on rough sleepers will be informed by research into the prevalence of rooflessness in Scotland, from which findings will be available in mid 1996.

Nursery Education

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what are the intended and actual frequencies of inspection by Her Majesty's inspector of schools for *(a)* local authority-run nursery schools and *(b)* private nursery schools. [34814]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: Her Majesty's inspectors of schools—HMI—inspect a sample of about 6 per cent. of local authority nursery schools and nursery classes attached to primary schools each year leading to a published report and follow-up inspection. They inspect nursery provision attached to independent schools. In addition, HMI has promoted self-evaluation in the pre-school sector by the recent publication of performance indicators for pre-school provision. Further inspection visits lead to the publication of aspect reports such as the HMI report "The Education of Children Under Five in

Scotland." Further consideration will be given to future patterns of inspection in the context of the Government's current initiative on pre-school education.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, if he will estimate the cost of administering a voucher scheme for nursery education; and if such administration will include checks on fraud and exchange or the sale of vouchers. [34815]

Mr. Robertson: As my right hon. Friend announced on 6 July, we shall be consulting on the detail of the voucher scheme in Scotland. It would be premature to comment on specific details of the scheme in advance of that consultation but necessary safeguards will be included.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate how many new private nursery schools will open in the highlands and islands following the introduction of a voucher scheme. [34816]

Mr. Robertson: At this stage, it is not possible to forecast how many private nurseries or playgroups may open in the highlands and islands following the introduction of the voucher schemes. The position will become clearer in due course.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate the capital and revenue of providing nursery school places for all children in the three to five-year age group. [34817]

Mr. Robertson: The revenue cost of local authority nursery schools and classes for children aged two to five in 1993–94, the most recent year for which returns are available, was £62.2 million. In September 1993, 47,682 children aged three to five were in a mix of full-time and part-time local authority nursery schools or classes. Children generally enter primary school in Scotland in August where their fifth birthday falls between the previous March and the following February. Excluding five-year-olds, the estimated revenue cost of providing the same mix of nursery education for all three and four-year-olds in the year given would have been around £162 million. Information on the associated capital costs is not available centrally.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will provide *(a)* a breakdown of the completed nursery school building programme, and the conversion of primary school classrooms for nursery education in each year since 1979 and *(b)* a breakdown of present such programmes by local education authority, together with location and cost of each proposed development. [34818]

Mr. Robertson: Information in the form requested is not available centrally.

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish the information collected for the Scottish Education Department's 1988 review of provision for under-sixes; and if he will order and publish an update of that information. [34819]

Mr. Robertson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no plans to do so. The position regarding pre-school provision has changed significantly since that review was undertaken. Since then, there has been a large increase in provision by education authorities as well as by the voluntary and private sector. The new initiative, based on vouchers, which my right hon. Friend announced on 6 July 1995 will build on that progress but also offer parents real choice.

More generally, information on levels of provision for pre-school education in Scotland is now published on a regular basis by the Scottish Office in statistical bulletins.

Child Sexual Abuse

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he proposes to publish guidelines on the interviewing of children in cases of suspected child sexual abuse; and if he will make a statement. [34926]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Guidance on interviewing children in cases of suspected child abuse forms part of wider guidance on joint investigation of such cases by police and social work. This has been prepared by a working group set up by the Secretary of State and the Lord Advocate following the publication of Lord Clyde's report of the Orkney inquiry. It will be issued shortly for consultation and copies will be placed in the Library.

Libraries

Mrs. Fyfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make it his policy that public libraries will remain in the public sector. [34859]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: My right hon. Friend has no plans to change local authorities' statutory duty to secure the provision of adequate library facilities for all persons resident in their area. The report on the scope for contracting out in the public library service prepared for the Government by the consultants KPMG and CPI is being published today and the Scottish Office Education Department will consult local authorities and interested bodies about it.

A92

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will announce when construction on dualling of the A92 between the Balmedie bypass and Tipperty is to begin. [35373]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I am unable to say when construction on the upgrade of the A92 trunk road between the Balmedie bypass and Tipperty will commence. Officials in the Scottish Office Industry Department are currently considering a report prepared by consultants which recommends a route for the A92. Following the identification of a detailed scheme statutory authority to proceed will be sought. The scheme will thereafter compete with others for resources in the trunk road construction programme.

Dental Services

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list by region the number of dental practices *(a)* in Scotland and *(b)* in Gordon which continue to register national health service patients. [35263]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: No information is held on dental practices. The number of individual dentists registered at 31 March 1995 on health board

dental lists to provide national health service general dental services in Scotland was 1,763, of whom 20 practised in Gordon district. General dental practitioners are independent contractors who are free to decide whether to offer NHS treatment to each individual patient.

Courts Administration

Ms Roseanna Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what plans there are to terminate the existing immunity of the Scottish courts administration from the consequences of negligence, following the case of Meekison *v.* Uniroyal Englebert Tyres Limited 1995, GWD 336. [35365]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The basis of the judgment of sheriff principal Gordon Nicholson QC in the appeal in this case was that courts in Scotland do not have a power at common law to make an award of expenses against someone who is not a party to a litigation, except in the cases of a dominus litis and a law agent. The Government have no plans to change the law in this respect.

Departmental Staff

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list for each civil service grade in his Department the number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employees. [35456]

Mr. Michael Forsyth: The number of permanent industrial and non-industrial staff on 1 April 1995 on a head-count basis were as follows:

	Male		*Female*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
The Scottish office and its executive agencies (excluding the Scottish Prison Service)	3,310	24	2,009	336
The Scottish Prison Service	3,815	94	406	31

The breakdown by grade of non-industrial staff in the Scottish Office and its executive agencies other than the Scottish Prison Service was as shown in the table. No breakdown of industrial staff by grade is available. The Scottish Prison Service has undergone a pay and grading review, and no longer uses civil service grades: it is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of staffing numbers as requested.

Department: The Scottish office and its executive agencies

Grade	*Male*		*Female*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Unified G1	1	—	—	—
Unified G2	6	—	—	—
Unified G3	20	—	2	1
Unified G4	13	—	3	—
Unified G5	92	1	9	8
Unified G6	68	—	11	1
Unified G7	308	3	61	16
SEO	130	1	23	3
HEO(D)	13	—	6	—
HEO	342	2	153	35
AT	3	—	4	—
EO	246	2	287	45
AO	299	3	432	84
AA	215	—	367	43
Senior Econ Assistant	10	—	1	1
Econ Assistant	3	—	—	—

Department: The Scottish office and its executive agencies

Grade	*Male*		*Female*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Senior Assistant Statistician	3	—	11	1
Assistant Statistician	3	—	1	—
Senior Information Officer	9	1	3	—
Information Officer	6	—	5	—
Assistant Information Officer	1	—	2	—
Librarian	1	—	5	—
Assistant Librarian	2	—	6	—
Legal Officer	1	—	1	—
Legal Trainee	2	—	1	—
Curatorial Grade D	3	—	4	—
Curatorial Grade E	4	—	2	1
Curatorial Grade F	2	—	4	—
Conservation Grade D	4	—	—	—
Conservation Grade E	2	—	1	—
Conservation Grade F	2	—	—	—
Senior Map and Chart Officer	1	—	—	—
Map and Chart Officer	2	—	—	—
Map and Chart TG1	1	—	1	—
SPTO	84	1	7	—
HPTO	36	—	—	—
PTO	83	—	—	—
TG1	2	—	2	—
TG2	1	—	3	—
Graphics Officer	3	—	—	—
Senior Research Officer (S)	4	1	6	2
Senior Research Officer (R)	2	—	1	—
Chief Typing Manager	—	—	1	—
Typing Manager	—	—	7	—
Senior Personal Secretary	—	—	11	—
Personal Secretary	1	—	186	29
Typist	4	—	189	43
Trainee Typist	—	—	2	—
Senior Scientific Officer	40	—	3	1
Higher Scientific Officer	54	—	16	—
Scientific Officer	30	—	22	3
Asset Scientific Officer	20	—	28	4
Museum Support Grade 1	4	—	—	—
Museum Support Grade 2	7	—	1	—
Museum Support Grade 3	4	—	5	—
Museum Support Grade 4	36	5	12	6
Museum Support Grade 5	12	—	9	5
Higher Photographic Officer	3	—	1	—
Photographic Officer	5	—	—	—
Proc. and Gen. Super Group Grade D	—	—	1	—
Stores Officer C	1	—	—	—
Support Manager 2	1	—	1	—
Support Manager 3	4	—	4	—
SGB1	18	—	8	—
SGB2	122	—	31	4
Agricultural Officer	113	—	5	—
Area Meat and Livestock Inspector	1	—	—	—
Asset Inspector Fire Service	2	—	—	—
Asset Chief Inspector Social Work	3	—	1	—
Chief Dental Officer	1	—	—	—
Chief Executive NHS	1	—	—	—
Chief Food and Dairy Officer	1	—	—	—
Chief Ind. Pollution Inspector	1	—	—	—
Chief Medical Officer	1	—	—	—
Chief Nursing Officer	—	—	1	—
Commandant (Fire School)	1	—	—	—
Commandant (Police College)	1	—	—	—
Dental Officer	2	—	1	—
Department Chief Ind. Pollution Inspector	1	—	—	—
Farm Manager	2	—	—	—

Department: The Scottish office and its executive agencies

Grade	Male		Female	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
First Officer (Executive)	13	—	—	—
Food and Dairy Officer	—	—	2	—
Higher Agricultural Officer (T)	43	—	—	—
Higher Agricultural Officer	16	—	1	—
Higher Horticultural Officer	—	—	1	—
Higher Marketing Officer (Horticulture)	4	—	—	—
Higher Marketing Officer (Poultry)	1	—	—	—
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons	—	1	—	—
HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary	1	—	—	—
HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services	1	—	—	—
HM Inspector of Fire Services	1	—	—	—
HM Inspector of schools	42	1	12	—
HM Staff Inspector	24	—	3	—
HM Inspector of Constabulary	—	1	—	—
Horticultural Officer	1	—	—	1
Inspector of Social Work Services	6	—	3	—
Marketing Officer (Horticulture)	4	—	2	—
Marketing Officer (Poultry)	3	—	—	—
Nursing Officer	2	—	4	—
Principal Agricultural Officer	10	—	—	—
Principal Horticultural Officer	1	—	—	—
Principal Reporter	2	—	—	—
Reporter	9	—	1	—
Senior Asset Inspector of Fire Services	1	—	—	—
Senior Agricultural Officer	45	—	—	—
Senior Dental Officer	1	—	—	—
Senior Horticultural Officer	1	—	—	—
Senior Planner	8	—	—	—
Senior Agricultural Officer (Poultry)	1	—	—	—
Telecoms Engineering Technician	8	—	—	—
Telecoms Technical Engineer 1	1	—	—	—
Telecoms Technical Engineer 2	2	—	—	—
Chief Engineer	8	—	—	—
Collector of Fisheries Statistics	—	1	—	—
Commander	8	—	—	—
First Officer (Safety)	8	—	—	—
Engineer Superintendent	1	—	—	—
Fishery Officer 1	21	—	—	—
Fishery Officer 2	40	—	1	—
Inspector of Sea Fisheries	9	—	—	—
Marine Superintendent	1	—	—	—
Second Engineer	8	—	—	—
Second Officer	12	—	2	—
Third Engineer	6	—	—	—
Constable (Royal Parks)	9	—	1	—
Sergeant (Royal Parks)	1	—	—	—
Total	2,914	24	2,005	336

Child Care

Ms Armstrong: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spends on *(a)* child care provision for under-fives and *(b)* out-of-school provision for the over-fives, both directly, excluding provision for departmental staff, and indirectly through resources made available to local authorities and other organisations; what form of provision is provided; and how many full-time and part-time places are provided. [35550]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The Scottish Office supports the provision of various forms of day care through the urban programme and through grants under section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. In 1994–95, over £6.7 million was made available from these sources. Local enterprise companies are also now funding child care projects for children under five and also for older children. The Government have in addition put some £45 million into expanding after-school care and this is being delivered in Scotland through local enterprise companies.

Within the local authority expenditure settlement for 1994–95 provision of £28.106 million was made for day care for children.

The latest available information about the form and level of day care provision in Scotland at March 1994 is as follows:

	Number of places
Day nurseries	[1]16,000
Playgroups	43,335
Childminders	31,797

[1] Estimated

Ayrshire and Arran Health Board

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what tendering procedure was adopted by Ayrshire and Arran health board in appointing Allan Clark Associates to conduct its public relations. [35749]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

South Ayrshire NHS Trust

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what tendering procedure was adopted by the South Ayrshire NHS Trust in appointing its public relations advisers; and which companies were involved in this process. [35748]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Non-Domestic Properties (Valuation)

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many appeals have been lodged against the valuation of non-domestic properties arising out of the 1995 valuation in each valuation area; how long it takes to deal with each appeal on average; how many appeals have been dealt with so far; and how many have been successful. [35718]

Mr. Kynoch: As the initial period for lodging appeals is not yet concluded, none of this information is currently available centrally. Information will be sought on a regular basis once that period has passed and while the disposal of appeals continues.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the number of appeals lodged against the valuation of non-domestic properties in each valuation area on the last occasion this was undertaken; and what was the average amount of time it took to deal with these appeals and number of appeals which were successful. [35681]

Mr. Kynoch: The table shows the number of appeals, by region and island areas, arising from the 1990 revaluation. A total of 79,467 appeals were lodged with assessors throughout Scotland. No information was collected centrally concerning the time taken to dispose of appeals or the eventual outcome of individual appeals.

	Number of appeals from 1990 revaluation
Borders	2,073
Central	4,282
Dumfries and Galloway	2,347
Fife	5,247
Grampian	8,100
Highland	4,168
Lothian	9,740
Strathclyde	35,679
Tayside	7,136
Orkney	174
Shetland	228
Western Isles	293
Scotland	79,467

Source:
Appeals returns submitted to LGF Statistics Unit by the Scottish Assessors.

Development Corporations

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what procedure was adopted by Irvine development corporation in replacing the managing director of the development corporation; and what was the involvement of the Scottish Office in this matter. [35750]

Mr. Kynoch: Irvine development corporation, as the employer, sought applications for the post of managing director from senior staff serving in the five new town development corporations in Scotland. Following consideration and interviews, John Murdoch was appointed to succeed Brigadier Rickets on his retiral. The matter was discussed as part of the regular exchanges between the chairman of the board and officials of the Scottish Office Industry Department.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the amount spent by each development corporation in supporting housing associations or co-operatives within their areas; and if he will list the bodies which have received this funding and the amounts involved. [35729]

Mr. Kynoch: Expenditure up to 30 June 1995 is set out in the table:

Development corporation	*Housing association*	*Amount £*
Cumbernauld	Abronhill housing association	10,500
East Kilbride	East Kilbride and district housing association	105,990
Glenrothes	Glenrothes community housing association	25,782
Irvine	Irvine housing association	[1]311,770
Livingston	Almond housing association	68,205

[1] This figure includes the costs of two staff seconded from Irvine development corporation to Irvine housing association.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is *(a)* the number of residential properties in each of the new towns which thus far have been transferred to other landlords and *(b)* the number of properties transferred in each case; to which landlord the properties were transferred; and what was the capital receipt accruing to the development corporation in each case. [35727]

Mr. Kynoch: The information as at 30 June is set out in the table.

Development corporation	*Housing association*	*Number of properties transferred*[1]	*Capital receipts £ million*[2]
Glenrothes	Kingdom	234	7.58
	Link	30	1.35
	Collydean	190	6.65
	Hillcrest	216	*3.14
Total		670	18.72
East Kilbride	Loretto	20	.90
	Link	60	2.70
	East Kilbride and District	294	*2.28
Total		374	5.88
Cumbernauld	Bield	64	2.10
	Link	163	*4.30
	West of Scotland	136	5.07
	GAP	57	*1.22
	YWCA	23	0.51
	Abronhill	146	*0.94
Total		589	14.14
Livingston	Almond	184	*1.06
	Castle Rock (Livingston)	76	*0.45
	Edinvar in Livingston	44	*0.21
	Canmore	92	2.41
Total		396	4.13

[1] These are made up of new build and, except in Glenrothes, older stock. The split is different in each of the 3 towns and affects the level of receipts and the average price paid.

[2] The basis of valuing housing stock for transfer was changed in May 1993 to a basis compatible with the RICS Guidance "The Valuation on Transfer of Local Authority Housing Stock". This approach reflected more closely the conditions of sale, in particular retention in the socially rented sector, and ended the need for purchasers to receive Housing Association Grant (HAG) from Scottish Homes. The Associations which have not received HAG are marked with an asterisk.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which companies indicated an interest in the industrial assets of Irvine development corporation. [35693]

Mr. Kynoch: Sale particulars of Irvine's industrial portfolio were circulated widely and strong interest was noted from nine companies, six of which submitted informal bids. Five companies, whose bids were above the asking price, were invited to submit, and submitted, formal offers. The names of companies are commercially sensitive and, save for the successful purchasers, are not made public.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when Irvine development corporation first entered into negotiations with Ashtenne Irvine Ltd. relating to their purchase of Irvine new town's industrial assets. [35694]

Mr. Kynoch: Astenne Irvine Ltd., along with the other four companies asked to submit a formal bid, were interviewed by the corporation over a two-day period on 8 and 9 November 1994.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was raised by the sale of Irvine development corporation's industrial assets; and how much of this revenue will be used for investment in Irvine new town after the wind-up of Irvine development corporation. [35695]

Mr. Kynoch: Information about sales prior to April 1992 is not held centrally. For the period from April 1992 to June 1995 industrial disposals by Irvine development corporation realised £30.2 million. These resources have been allocated by the Secretary of State to his programmes, including those for the new towns, in the year in which they were generated. Accordingly, none of these particular receipts will be available for investment after the winding up of the development corporation.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent by Irvine development corporation in supporting the Irvine housing association. [35730]

Mr. Kynoch: At 30 June 1995, Irvine development corporation had provided £311,770 to support Irvine housing association. This included the costs of the two staff on secondment to the association from the corporation.

Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many companies were invited by his Department to tender for the study into how the private sector might be involved in all or part of the business of Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd. [35714]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Nine companies were invited to submit written proposals for the study.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the estimated cost to the public purse of the study into how the private sector might be involved in all or part of the business of Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd. [35715]

Lord James Douglas -Hamilton: The overall cost of the study will not exceed £60,000 including VAT.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what were the precise terms of reference given to Quayle Munro Ltd in respect of their study of how the private sector might be involved in all or part of the business of Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd; and if he will eventually publish the finding of the study.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: A copy of the terms of reference for the consultancy study has been placed in the Library. No decision has yet been made on whether any findings will be published. [35713]

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within the Scottish Office and its executive agencies.

Mr. Michael Forsyth: My Department and its executive agencies are committed to equality of opportunity for all its enployees. Women represent 45 per cent. of non-industrial staff in the Scottish Office, excluding the Scottish Prison Service.

The proportion of women is increasing at all management levels—at executive officer level—the first management level—up from 26 per cent. in 1987 to 42 per cent. in 1995. At higher executive officer level, the proportion of women has risen from 19 per cent. in 1987 to 30 per cent. in 1995. This is an important breakthrough for the future. The proportion of women at the top is rising steadily as more and more women's careers develop. At grade 3 the proportion of women is currently 16 per cent. a fourfold increase on 1987.

Part-time work operates in the Scottish Office as elsewhere. Since 1990 the number of part-time staff has risen to 326 to 390—over 15 per cent. of all women now work part-time. Part-time work is an option for all staff—some individuals in all grades up to grade 3 work part-time, 47 per cent. of grade 5s work part-time.

The Scottish Office, in common with other civil service Departments, has set a clear benchmark against which to measure progress; that, by the year 2000, 15 per cent. of top Scottish Office posts grades 1 to 3 are expected to be held by women.

Recruitment and promotion are on merit. Recruits to the senior grades as to any grade in the civil service, are selected on the basis of fair and open competition, unless one of the exceptions permitted under the Civil Service Order 1991 applies.

My Department had made considerable progress on equal opportunities for women. Its initiatives have been based on the 1984 and 1992 report on equality of opportunity in the civil service.

Details of these initiatives can be found in the following Cabinet Office publications:

Equal Opportunities for Women in the Civil Service —10 Year Progress Report 1984–94.

Annual Progress Reports on Equal Opportunities for Women in the Civil Service 1992–93

Head Teachers

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to his answer of 28 March, *Official Report*, column *593* if he will list the numbers of *(a)* staff and *(b)* women employed at head teacher, assistant head

teacher and deputy head teacher levels for (i) secondary and (ii) primary schools for each education authority within Scotland for each year since 1992. [35713]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The information is collected biennially. Provisional figures for 1994 are given.

Education authority primary schools—total and female teacher numbers (full-time equivalents) at head, deputy head and assistant head teacher levels—September 1994 (provisional)[1]

Education authority	Head teacher		Deputy head teacher		Assistant head teacher	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
Scotland	2,201	1,612	710	631	777	708
Borders	72	48	14	14	6	5
Central	111	85	51	46	39	36
Dumfries and Galloway	104	64	24	22	12	8
Fife	141	101	57	55	43	40
Grampian	257	175	80	70	59	52
Highland	184	129	29	27	14	11
Lothian	225	151	130	113	86	78
Strathclyde	850	683	259	228	446	416
Tayside	181	117	62	53	51	43
Orkney	18	15	1	1	1	1
Shetland	26	18	3	2	8	7
Western Isles	32	27	1	1	11	10
Strathclyde Divisions:						
Argyll and Bute	71	52	8	7	6	6
Ayr	145	106	45	37	73	67
Dunbarton	110	92	45	41	66	62
Glasgow	216	180	64	61	109	103
Lanark	204	169	45	38	107	98
Renfrew	103	83	52	44	86	81

[1] Totals may not be equal to the sum of their rounded components.

Education authority secondary schools—Total and female teacher numbers (full-time equivalents) at head, deputy head and assistant head teacher levels—September 1994 (provisional)

Education authority	Head teacher		Deputy head teacher		Assistant head teacher	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
Scotland	394	18	395	47	1,031	250
Borders	9	0	9	1	27	5
Central	17	1	20	1	49	5
Dumfries and Galloway	16	0	16	0	32	4
Fife	19	0	18	4	69	18
Grampian	38	1	37	5	98	24
Highland	26	0	26	1	42	6
Lothian	44	3	44	6	123	30
Strathclyde	167	11	174	22	491	126
Tayside	30	1	30	4	86	28
Orkney	6	0	2	0	5	1
Shetland	8	1	8	1	3	1
Western Isles	14	0	12	2	7	2
Strathclyde Divisions:						
Argyll and Bute	10	0	10	1	22	2
Ayr	29	2	27	3	80	12
Dunbarton	23	1	27	4	77	30
Glasgow	40	3	44	5	120	36
Lanark	37	3	36	2	111	26
Renfrew	28	2	30	7	81	20

Local Authorities (Circulars and Guidelines)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if it is his policy to place in the Library copies of all circulars and guidelines issued by his Department to local authorities in Scotland. [35712]

Mr. Kynoch: It is not regular policy to place copies of circulars and guidelines issued to local authorities in the Library. These documents are publicly available and may be obtained on request to the Department.

Piers (Kyle of Lochalsh and Kyleakin)

Mr. Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what advice he has given to Highland regional council in respect of the future availability and usage of the piers at Kyle of Lochalsh and Kyleakin for future ferry use; and if he will make a statement. [35850]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: We have not given advice to Highland regional council on the usage of the piers at Kyle of Lochalsh and Kyleakin for future ferry

use. This is a matter for Highland regional council. The Scottish Office, however, would not be prepared to permit any parking or queuing for a ferry on the trunk road in Kyle.

Pupils (Exclusion)

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school children have been permanently excluded in each of the last five years; [35846]

(2) how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school children have been permanently excluded in each local education authority in each of the last five years and as a proportion of the total school roll. [35842]

Mr. Raymond S. Robertson: The information sought is not at present held centrally. However, under the terms of a circular issued by the Scottish Office Education Department, education authorities are to collect and provide information on exclusions on a school by school basis for school year 1994–95, and subsequent years, as part of the annual exercise to collect statistics on attendance and absence.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school children who have been permanently excluded have received tuition (i) at home and (ii) in a pupil referral unit in each of the past five years. [35839]

Mr. Robertson: The information sought is not held centrally.

Police Boxes

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) if he will have the remaining in-situ blue police boxes made listed buildings; and if he will make a statement. [35950]

(2) what action he has taken in conjunction with his agency Historic Scotland to preserve and renovate the remaining in situ blue police boxes; and if he will make a statement. [35951]

(3) if he will list the locations of the remaining four in-situ blue police boxes. [35952]

Mr. Kynoch: Since these are matters for Historic Scotland, I have asked the agency's chief executive, Mr. Graeme Munro, to write to the hon. Member as soon as possible. A copy of Mr. Munro's letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Brent Spar

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effects on deep ocean eco-systems likely to have resulted from the dumping of the Brent Spar and other installations. [32680]

Mr. Kynoch: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Inward Investment

Mr. Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the Scottish share of inward investment projects into the United Kingdom for each of the last 10 years, as measured by *(a)* number of projects and *(b)* numbers of jobs created. [35174]

Mr. Kynoch *[holding answer 19 July 1995]:* The information is as follows:

Scottish share of inward investment projects recorded by the Invest in Britain Bureau

Per cent.

Year	Projects	Jobs created	Jobs safeguarded
1985–86	12.4	16.7	24.2
1986–87	9.8	11.7	2.5
1987–88	15.4	16.3	14.5
1988–89	12.4	17.6	4.5
1989–90	9.3	21.7	1.3
1990–91	11.0	23.9	1.5
1991–92	10.8	17.2	2.9
1992–93	18.3	25.2	9.6
1993–94	20.2	25.0	6.7
1994–95	18.7	20.8	6.1

These figures are based on information provided by the companies concerned at the time of the decision to invest and take no account of subsequent developments.

Health Service

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* administrative and clerical staff and *(c)* nursing and midwifery staff were employed in each health region in 1994. [35391]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The information requested is shown in the table:

Selected staff employed in the NHS in Scotland[1] by health board area: at 30 September 1994

Whole time equivalent

	Argyll and Clyde	*Ayrshire and Arran*	*Borders*	*Dumfries and Galloway*	*Fife*	*Forth Valley*	*Grampian*	*Greater Glasgow*
(a) General and senior managers	79.4	148.2	26.0	33.5	79.7	73.0	167.2	138.1
(b) Administrative and clerical staff	1,391.1	870.7	308.6	462.8	942.6	702.4	1,586.4	3,736.9
(c) Nursing and midwifery staff[2]	4,118.2	3,094.2	1,021.1	1,686.8	3,004.2	2,986.6	5,070.6	11,122.0

Whole time equivalent

	Highland	*Lanarkshire*	*Lothian*[2]	*Orkney*	*Shetland*	*Tayside*	*Western Isles*
(a) General and Senior Managers	114.9	121.3	289.3	5.2	8.0	143.6	13.9
(b) Administrative and Clerical Staff	588.4	1,200.5	2,532.5	32.2	56.0	1,419.2	78.5
(c) Nursing and Midwifery Staff[3]	2,083.6	4,478.8	7,521.7	222.0	223.8	5,036.4	344.3

Thousands

	Argyll and Clyde	*Ayrshire and Arran*	*Borders*	*Dumfries and Galloway*	*Fife*	*Forth Valley*	*Grampian*	*Greater Glasgow*
(a) General and Senior Managers	80	149	26	34	80	73	170	141
(b) Administrative and Clerical Staff	1,605	1,002	376	554	1,130	829	1,884	4,270
(c) Nursing and Midwifery Staff[3]	5,069	3,692	1,250	2,130	3,617	3,533	6,148	13,254

Number

	Highland	*Lanarkshire*	*Lothian*	*Orkney*	*Shetlands*	*Tayside*	*Western Isles*
(a) General and Senior Managers	118	122	292	6	6	144	15
(b) Administrative and Clerical Staff	708	1,382	3,074	37	65	1,667	86
(c) Nursing and Midwifery Staff[3]	2,541	5,468	9,222	271	260	6,013	447

Notes:
[1] Excludes State Hospital and Common Services Agency.
[2] Revised.
[3] Excludes teachers, nurses in training and students on '1992' courses in nursing and midwifery.
Source:
National Manpower Statistics (NAMS) Information and Statistics Division of the CSA.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what guidance the Scottish Office has issued to Scottish health boards relating to the provision of private medical insurance as part of the benefit packages of senior management staff within these bodies. [35731]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: No such guidance has been issued.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment the Scottish Office has made of savings within the senior management of health boards and NHS trusts arising out of trusts status and general practitioner fundholding initiatives. [35696]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: No such assessment has been made.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State, pursuant to his answer of 9 December, *Official Report*, columns *427–8* if he will provide the latest annual figure for NHS trust start-up costs. [35443]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* There have been no further start-up costs incurred since the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 9 December.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many beds within each NHS trust in Scotland he has designated amenity beds for each financial year since their establishment. [35701]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the date of establishment of each NHS trust in Scotland. [35699]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The information is set out in the table.

NHS Trust	*Establishment date*
Aberdeen Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	25 March 1992
Angus NHS Trust	6 December 1993
Argyll and Bute NHS Trust	29 November 1994
Ayrshire and Arran Community Healthcare NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Borders Community Health Services NHS Trust	29 November 1994
Borders General Hospital NHS Trust	29 November 1994
Caithness and Sutherland NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Central Scotland Healthcare NHS Trust	17 June 1994
Dumfries and Galloway Acute and Maternity Hospitals NHS Trust	1 December 1993
Dumfries and Galloway Community Health NHS Trust	29 November 1994
Dundee Healthcare NHS Trust	1 December 1993
Dundee Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	1 January 1993
East and Midlothian NHS Trust	1 December 1993
Edinburgh Healthcare NHS Trust	1 December 1993
Edinburgh Sick Children's NHS Trust	1 December 1993
Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	1 December 1993
Fife Healthcare NHS Trust	1 December 1993
Glasgow Dental Hospital and School NHS Trust	29 November 1994
Glasgow Royal Infirmary University NHS Trust	6 December 1993
Grampian Healthcare NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Greater Glasgow Community and Mental Health Services NHS Trust	24 January 1994
Hairmyres and Stonehouse Hospitals NHS Trust	1 December 1993

NHS Trust	Establishment date
Highland Communities NHS Trust	6 December 1993
Inverclyde Royal NHS Trust	6 December 1993
Kirkcaldy Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	6 December 1993
Lanarkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	29 November 1994
Law Hospital NHS Trust	31 March 1995
Lomond Healthcare NHS Trust	29 November 1994
Monklands and Bellshill Hospitals NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Moray Health Services NHS Trust	1 January 1993
North Ayrshire and Arran NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Perth and Kinross NHS Trust	1 December 1993
Queen Margaret Hospital NHS Trust	6 December 1993
Raigmore Hospital NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Renfrewshire Healthcare NHS Trust	6 December 1993
Royal Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh NHS Trust	31 March 1995
Scottish Ambulance Service NHS Trust	29 November 1994
South Ayrshire Hospitals NHS Trust	1 January 1992
Southern General Hospital NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Stirling Royal Infirmary NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Stobhill NHS Trust	6 December 1993
Victoria Infirmary NHS Trust	1 January 1993
West Glasgow Hospitals University NHS Trust	6 December 1993
West Lothian NHS Trust	1 January 1993
Western General Hospitals NHS Trust	1 December 1993
Yorkhill NHS Trust	1 January 1993

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what guidance the Scottish Office have issued to NHS trusts concerning target times for dealing with correspondence. [35697]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The code of practice on openness in the NHS in Scotland, issued by the management executive of the Scottish Office Home and Health Department in May 1995 to all health boards and NHS trusts makes it clear that requests for information, whether made in person or in writing, must be answered promptly. An acknowledgement must be sent within four working days and, where possible, the information should follow within 20 working days.

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many employees were in senior management, administrative and accountancy posts in the Scottish health service in each year since 1989. [35650]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: Information on whole-time equivalents of employees in senior management and administrative and clerical posts are shown in the table. Information on identifying staff employed in accountancy posts in the NHS in Scotland is not available centrally.

Senior management and administrative and clerical staff employed in the NHS in Scotland; whole time equivalent at 30 September

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Senior management[1]	—	—	623.6	800.6	1,151.6	1,720.0
Chief executives and general managers[2]	—	—	71.0	73.0	83.0	[3]54.0
Senior managers—grades 0–12[1,3]	x	x	x	x	x	1,212.9
Senior managers—old grades	—	—	452.6	727.5	1,068.6	453.1
Administrative and clerical	15,222.9	15,923.8	16,060.6	16,839.0	17,386.9	17,754.4
Grades 1–10[4]	15,002.9	15,703.8	15,741.5	16,519.0	17,076.1	17,441.7
Ambulance and control officers	220.0	220.0	223.0	221.0	227.8	229.0
Miscellaneous[5]	—	—	96.0	99.0	83.0	83.7

Notes:
[1] The increase in numbers can be partially accounted for by the assimilation of nursing, professional and A and C staff to senior manager grades.
[2] Some chief executives may be included in "senior managers—old grades" or they may not be correctly identified as chief executives under the new grading system.
[3] From 30 September 1993, a new grading system was introduced for general and senior managers. There is no correspondence between the old and new pay spines which would allow staff to be shown in a common grade (spine point range) analysis.
[4] For the years prior to September 1991, management grades are included in A and C grades 1–10.
[5] Includes obsolete management grades and management trainees.*Source:*
National Manpower Statistics (NAMS).
Information and Statistics Division of the CSA.

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of Sate for Scotland what has been the cost of supplying cars to senior management in the Scottish NHS in each year since 1989. [35649]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the administrative cost of running the NHS in Scotland in *(a)* 1979 and *(b)* in the last year for which figures are available as expressed in (i) 1994–95 prices and (ii) as a percentage of the NHS budget. [35654]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: The administrative cost of running the NHS in Scotland in 1979–80, adjusted to 1994–95 prices was £166,263,000. This represented 6.8 per cent. of the total NHS budget. Comparable figures for the year 1993–94 adjusted to 1994–95 prices are £212,678,000 which represents 5.6 per cent. of the total NHS budget.

However, changes in the methods of reporting in annual accounts allows a more detailed analysis of costs. This means certain areas of administration at hospital and community level can be separately identified in the annual accounts. The actual adjusted cost of administration in 1993–94 was £324,851,000. This represented 8.6 per cent. of the total NHS budget for 1993–94. In 1979–80 these costs were contained within running expenses and the figures for this year are not directly comparable with those for 1993–94.

Mr. Canavan: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list details of travel expense rates for *(a)* members of health boards, *(b)* senior management of health boards, *(c)* members of NHS trusts and *(d)* senior management of NHS trusts. [34753]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what guidance the Scottish Office issued to Scottish health boards on adjustments to the pay and conditions of board general mangers following the implementation of trust status and GP fundholding within their health board's areas. [35719]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: No such specific guidance has been issued. New arrangements for the pay of board general mangers were introduced as from 1 September 1993. These arrangements take account of the new roles of health boards.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, pursuant to his answer on 13 July, *Official Report*, column *741*, if he will provide information on expenditure on trust board members as broken down in his answer for each of the last three years. [35857]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many calls have been made to the NHS helpline in Scotland both *(a)* interactive and *(b)* non-interactive in each month since the end of June 1994. [35728]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many private prescriptions were issued in each financial year since 1979–80 in each health board. [35677]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: This information is not available.

Legislative Programme

Mr. Kirkwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what legislation he plans to introduce; and if he will make a statement. [35304]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The Government's plans for legislation will be announced in the Queen's Speech at the start of the 1995–96 Session.

Public Service Vehicles and Minibuses

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list by region the number of accidents involving public service vehicles and minibuses carrying school children in the last two years for which figures are available. [34794]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The information available is given in the table.

Accidents involving injury to school age children (5 to 16 years) travelling in public service vehicles or minibuses, by region and whether travelling to or from school, 1993–1994[1]

Number of accidents

	1993			*1994*		
Region	*Travelling to/from school*	*Not travelling to/from school*	*Total*	*Travelling to/from school*	*Not travelling to/from school*	*Total*
Borders	1	—	1	2	1	3
Central	2	3	5	3	6	9
Dumfries and Galloway	2	1	3	—	—	—
Fife	2	1	3	2	1	3
Grampian	1	1	2	2	2	4
Highland	1	2	3	1	1	2
Lothian	5	11	16	6	24	30
Strathclyde	10	31	41	16	27	43
Tayside	2	1	3	1	3	4
Orkney	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shetland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Western Isles	—	—	—	—	1	1
Scotland	26	51	77	33	66	99

Departmental Staff (Absence through Sickness)

Mr. Ian McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34612]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The table shows the required information, covering the period 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995, separately for the Scottish Office and its executive agencies other than the Scottish Prison Service, and for the Scottish Prison Service. Information on the cost of absence per individual could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Total days lost	*Average staffing over year (headcount)*	*Days lost divided by (Average staffing x 365)*
The Scottish Office (excluding the Scottish Prison Service)	77,940	5,997	0.036
Scottish Prison Service	77,490	4,371	0.049

The figures are extracted from the Department's own records: it has not been possible to adjust the figures to discount weekends and bank holidays, as is the case with the standardised statistical analysis on sickness absence across the civil service prepared by the Occupational Health and Safety Agency.

The figures on average staffing levels during the year have been calculated by averaging levels as recorded at the first of each month. In calculating days lost as a proportion of days worked, 365 has been used to gross up the staffing figures.

Algal Blooms

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many rivers, canals and lakes have been deemed a hazard to public health as a result of algal blooms in each of the last five years. [34628]

Mr. George Kynoch *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* A total of 124 episodes of blue green algae—cyanobacteria—occurring in fresh waters in Scotland have been reported to he Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health since surveillance commenced in 1992. The annual numbers of episodes reported were:

1992: 15

1993: 36

1994: 45

1995: 28 (to 30 June)

In each episode, action has been taken to prevent risk to public health. This has focused principally on the provision of advice to avoid skin contact with, or ingestion of, aigal scums. No human health effects have been associated with blue green algal episodes by the surveillance programme.

Computer Consultancy

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its agencies have spent on computer consultancy in each of the last five years; and what is the expected expenditure over the next five years. [33854]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* The amount spent by my Department and its agencies on computer consultancy in each of the last five financial years is as follows:

Year	*Amount £ million*
1990–91	0.10
1991–92	0.16
1992–93	0.85
1993–94	1.09
1994–95	2.13

Expenditure on computer consultancy is estimated at around £4 million for the current 1995–96 financial year, and £0.8 million for each of the following four years.

Sewerage Services

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the figures per each house valuation banding in each Scottish local authority for *(a)* the costs of sewerage services per household in the years 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 and *(b)* what each household pays for sewerage services in money terms and as a percentage of its council tax bills in the years 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96. [33310]

Mr. Kynoch *[holding answer 11 July 1995]:* Costs of sewerage services for households of two or more adults in each valuation band by authority for the years 1993–94, 1994–95 and 1995–96 are given in the tables.

Domestic sewerage services are funded from the council tax and, with other services, receive support via the revenue support grant element of aggregate external finance. Actual payments per household for individual services are not separately identified.

Table A: Expenditure on sewerage per council tax band 1993–94—2 or more adults

£

Valuation bands	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Authority								
Borders	52.36	61.09	69.81	78.54	95.99	113.45	130.90	157.08
Central	43.54	50.80	58.05	65.31	79.82	94.34	108.85	130.62
Dumfries and Galloway	47.04	54.88	62.72	70.56	86.24	101.92	117.60	141.12
Fife	38.00	44.33	50.67	57.00	69.67	82.33	95.00	114.00
Grampian	31.33	36.56	41.78	47.00	57.44	67.89	78.33	94.00
Highland	40.15	46.84	53.53	60.22	73.60	86.98	100.37	120.44
Lothian	33.61	39.22	44.82	50.42	61.62	72.83	84.03	100.84
Strathclyde	33.61	39.22	44.82	50.42	61.62	72.83	84.03	100.84
Tayside	42.15	49.17	56.20	63.22	77.27	91.32	105.37	126.44
Orkney	30.00	35.00	40.00	45.00	55.00	65.00	75.00	90.00
Shetland	44.23	51.60	58.97	66.34	81.08	95.82	110.57	132.68
Western Isles	64.67	75.44	86.22	97.00	118.56	140.11	161.67	194.00

Table B: Expenditure on sewerage per council tax band 1994–95—2 or more adults

£

Valuation bands	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Authority								
Borders	51.12	59.64	68.16	76.68	93.72	110.76	127.80	153.36
Central	43.58	50.84	58.11	65.37	79.90	94.42	108.95	130.74
Dumfries and Galloway	45.56	53.15	60.75	68.34	83.53	98.71	113.90	136.68
Fife	39.33	45.89	52.44	59.00	72.11	85.22	98.33	118.00
Grampian	31.95	37.28	42.60	47.93	58.58	69.23	79.88	95.86
Highland	40.65	47.43	54.20	60.98	74.53	88.08	101.63	121.96
Lothian	34.57	40.34	46.10	51.86	63.38	74.91	86.43	103.72

Table B: Expenditure on sewerage per council tax band 1994–95—2 or more adults

£

Valuation bands	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Strathclyde	33.69	39.31	44.92	50.54	61.77	73.00	84.23	101.08
Tayside	39.59	46.18	52.78	59.38	72.58	85.77	98.97	118.76
Orkney	32.29	37.67	43.05	48.43	59.19	69.95	80.72	96.86
Shetland	46.92	54.74	62.56	70.38	86.02	101.66	117.30	140.76
Western Isles	74.67	87.11	99.56	112.00	136.89	161.78	186.67	224.00

Table C: Expenditure on sewerage per council tax band 1995–96—2 or more adults

£

Valuation bands	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*
Authority								
Borders	51.72	60.34	68.96	77.58	94.82	112.06	129.30	155.16
Central	41.11	47.97	54.82	61.67	75.37	89.08	102.78	123.34
Dumfries and Galloway	48.05	56.06	64.07	72.08	88.10	104.12	120.13	144.16
Fife	38.93	45.42	51.91	58.40	71.38	84.36	97.33	116.80
Grampian	33.50	39.08	44.67	50.25	61.42	72.58	83.75	100.50
Highland	44.85	52.32	59.80	67.27	82.22	97.17	112.12	134.54
Lothian	35.15	41.00	46.86	52.72	64.44	76.15	87.87	105.44
Strathclyde	36.09	42.11	48.12	54.14	66.17	78.20	90.23	108.28
Tayside	40.15	46.85	53.54	60.23	73.61	87.00	100.38	120.46
Orkney	41.52	48.44	55.36	62.28	76.12	89.96	103.80	124.56
Shetland	46.41	54.15	61.88	69.62	85.09	100.56	116.03	139.24
Western Isles	72.09	84.10	96.12	108.13	132.16	156.19	180.22	216.26

Departmental Travel Expenses

Mrs. Anne Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will detail the amount of travel claims at constant prices in his Department in *(a)* 1993–94 and *(b)* 1994–95 broken down by (i) public transport, (ii) car mileage allowance and (iii) bicycle allowance.

Mr. Michael Forsyth: *[holding answer 4 July 1995]:* The information requested is kept, and provided, at actual prices. Figures on the very small amount claimed for bicycle allowance are not separately identified.

	1993–94 £	*1994–95* £
(i) Public transport	2,000,933	1,871,524
(ii) Car mileage	496,013	559,628

Public Access (Tax Exemptions)

Mr. Macdonald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, if he will state the total average of land in Scotland where landowners benefit from conditional exemption form inheritance tax by virtue of there being a right of public access; and what is the total number of estates and buildings in Scotland granted exemption from tax for the granting of public access. [33759]

Mr. Jack: I have been asked to reply.

The area, rounded, of land in Scotland of outstanding scenic interest which is conditionally exempt from inheritance tax or capital transfer tax is 47,000 hectares. There have been a total of 68 designations of land and historic buildings in Scotland. Some of the designations of historic buildings will have extended to surrounding land. Some designations of historic buildings have been for the purposes of the tax exemptions for maintenance funds rather than for exemption of the buildings themselves.

Councils of Ministers

Mr. Welsh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, how many meetings of the European Council of Ministers have taken place since April 1994; how many Scottish Office Ministers have attended in each case; which minister attended; and what was the subject discussed at each of these meetings. [32231]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 5 July 1995]:* The various European Councils of Ministers meet on average about 125 times per year. The subject matter of their meetings is often not a direct responsibility of the Scottish Office—for example, the Foreign Affairs Councils. Where, however, the matters under discussion are relevant to my responsibilities, Scottish Ministers are consulted on the line to take or attend the meetings as part of the United Kingdom delegation.

Since April 1994 my hon. Friend the Member for Dumfries, then Minister for Fisheries in Scotland, attended 6 Fisheries Councils, my noble and learned friend the Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, then Minister for Home Affairs in Scotland, attended two Justice/Interior Issues Councils and one Fisheries Council and my honourable friend the Member for Eastwood, then Minister for Industry in Scotland, attended one Regional Policy Council.

Agendas for meetings of the Council of Ministers usually cover a number of different subjects, but all within the area of responsibility of the particular Council.

Health Service (Computers)

Mr. McAllion: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what valuation was placed on national health service computer assets on their last two valuations; and when the last valuation took place; [35215]

(2) what capital transfer has been made to Scottish health boards to compensate them for the revaluation of national health service computer centre assets; [35214]

(3) what was the cost and the remit of his Department's contract with Coopers and Lybrand to draw up a service profile relating to the market testing of Scottish national health service computer services; [35213]

(4) if he will list the service specifications included in the contract put out to tender for running Scottish national health service computer services; and if he will list the bidders who have applied for the contract. [35216]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

GP Fundholders

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been allocated to GP fundholders in management allowances in each year since the start of the scheme. [35392]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The information is set out in the table.

	£ million
1990–91	0.025
1991–92	0.252
1992–93	1.554
1993–94	3.114
1994–95	4.336
Total	9.281

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what have been the costs of assisting GP fundholders with information technology expenditure in each year since 1991–92. [35387]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* Information available centrally relates only to direct payments to GP fundholders for computing costs made by health boards under the statement of fees and allowances. This information from 1992–93—the first year in which it was available centrally—until 30 September 1994 the latest date available, is set out in the table.

£ million

	Financial Year		
	1992–93	*1993–94*	*6 months to 30 September 1994*
Total computer costs	1.247	2.045	0.607

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what studies his Department has undertaken on the effectiveness of general practitioner fundholding and trust status. [35692]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Hospital Closures

Mr. McAvoy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions since 1979 he or his predecessors have refused to accept a recommendation to close a hospital; and if he will list the hospitals. [34801]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Ayshire and Arran Community Healthcare Trust

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what tendering procedure was adopted by the Ayrshire and Arran Community Healthcare Trust in appointing its public relations advisers; and what companies were involved in this process. [35732]

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Political Activities

Mr. Dalyell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms of contract relating to the conditions other than levels of pay, and the conditions of contract, of Mr. Gregor Mackay, pursuant to the oral answer by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Office of Public Service and Science, to the hon. Member for Gateshead, *Official Report*, column 15, and if he will define the term "leave" in relation to political activity. [33005]

Mr. Michael Forsyth *[holding answer 10 July 1995]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 24 April 1995, *Official Report*, 24 April, col *373*. Special advisers, like other civil servants, have an annual leave allocation which they can use for their own pursuits.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Nuclear Holding Company

Mr. Carrington: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement about the appointment of the chief executive of the proposed nuclear holding company. [36542]

Mr. Lang: In consultation with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland, I have agreed to the appointments of Dr. Robert Hawley as chief executive of the holding company, Mr. Michael Kirwan as finance director and Mr. Robert Armour as company secretary. Over the next eight months, Dr. Hawley and Mr. Kirwan will progressively reduce their involvement with Nuclear Electric. Their involvement in Nuclear Electric is expected to cease completely at the end of March 1996.

Further appointments will be announced in due course.

Chemical Weapons Convention

Mr. Flynn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when he intends to publish the draft Bill pertinent to the chemical weapons convention; and if he will make a statement. [33284]

Mr. Lang *[holding answer 12 July 1995]:* My hon. Friend the Minister for Trade and Technology announced to the House on 24 April 1995, *Official Report,* column 638 that the Government intended to publish a draft of the Chemical Weapons Bill for consultation with a view to its introduction in the coming session. The draft Bill has been published today and I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

Civil Service Pension Scheme

Mr. Carrington: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he has for the administration of the principal civil service pension scheme in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [36545]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Service and Science, informed the House on 27 June 1995, *Official Report,* column *551,* that parliamentary approval is to be sought to permit Departments to market test the administration of the principal civil service pension scheme. Subject to this being given, our preferred option would be to contract the work out, provided that it is demonstrated to offer better value for money than continued in-house provision. It will be open to appropriate bodies within Government to compete for this work. In the meantime, officials have been instructed to undertake preparatory work to pursue this option.

Simpler Trade Procedures Board

Mr. Spring: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he has completed his review of the Simpler Trade Procedures Board; and if he will make a statement. [36546]

Mr. Nelson: The purpose of the review, begun in May 1994, was to decide how SITPRO's work should be taken forward. The review, which has taken into account the report of a departmental review team and extensive representations by the SITPRO board, senior staff and other interested parties, is now complete. I am grateful to all those who contributed.

I am pleased to acknowledge the value of the work undertaken by SITPRO on trade facilitation and in stimulating the application of best practice, including electronic data interchange. A wide range of business representatives has made an extensive contribution over the years to the work of the board and its committees.

I have decided that the core trade facilitation function should continue, and be conducted at arm's length from the Department, with input from business. My Department, in conjunction with the chairman and the board, will be re-defining SITPRO's role in the light of the Government's wider trade and other policies. The focus will be on international trade procedures and associated information flows.

I recognise that SITPRO, in co-operation with other bodies, has made a pioneering contribution to the development of EDI standards. However, I believe that it is now appropriate to consolidate this work with other IT standards work led by the private sector. Although SITPRO will cease to play a leading role, it will provide input on the implications for international trade procedures. The Department is therefore negotiating with relevant bodies to ensure that the future focus for EDI standards work will be the relevant EDI standards BSI committee through the United Kingdom Confederation for Electronic Data Interchange Standards, UKCEDIS. To provide a stronger UK voice, with wider industry support, in the UN/EDIFACT process, the Department is negotiating to transfer SITPRO's EDI standards team to the private sector, where its expertise will continue to provide a resource for the lead standards body and the EDI community. The Department will fund this support activity on a tapering basis, to allow the private sector time to put alternative funding in place.

I share the board's view that SITPRO's software business could now make a greater contribution by being in the private sector. Consequently, preparations are being made to sell the business.

I believe that this programme of changes represents a way forward which will meet the wider governmental policies and key international trade facilitation needs.

British Antarctic Survey

Mr. Spring: To ask the President of the Board of trade what progress has been made on the restructuring programme on the British Antarctic Survey, with particular reference to the proposed transfer of the Faraday research station in Antarctica to the Government of Ukraine; and if he will make a statement. [36548]

Mr. Ian Taylor: The House was informed on 9 May 1993 that funds to the order of £4 million would be provided to the Natural Environment Research Council from the science budget for the three years up to 1995–96 for restructuring of the British Antarctic Survey's facilities in Antarctica. Work is progressing.

At the Rothera station, the first year of the construction programme on new accommodation and laboratory facilities has been completed. Work is expected to be finished by the end of the next austral summer. This will enable a greatly expanded inshore marine and terrestrial biology programme to be developed at Rothera. At Signy station, preparation of the site for construction has started. It is anticipated that work on new accommodation and laboratory facilities will be completed next season. In addition, automated equipment has been developed to record meteorological and sea ice conditions.

On completion, these projects will sustain the world-class research conducted by the survey and will provide enhanced opportunities for visiting scientists from our higher educational institutes and will facilitate international scientific collaboration.

Negotiations for the handover of the Faraday station to the Government of Ukraine announced to the House on 7 February have been successfully concluded. The terms of agreement to be signed on 20 July provide for the transfer of ownership of the Faraday research station to the Ukraine. It is proposed that the transfer will be concluded before 31 March 1996. The Ukrainian

Government have agreed that Faraday will continue to be used for scientific research and that key scientific observations, shall be continued.

Under the terms of the agreement, the United Kingdom and the international community will continue to receive, free of charge, scientific data to complement existing long term datasets. The Ukraine has also agreed to ensure that its scientific, logistic and support services in the Antarctic are fully in accord with the provisions of the Antarctic treaty and its protocol on environmental protection.

The arrangement will avoid the expenditure that would otherwise have been incurred had the base been closed and deemed abandoned. Clean-up of abandoned former British bases in Antarctica continues. Four of these bases were designated as historic sites at the XIXth Antarctic treaty consultative meeting in May this year.

Coal Industry

Mr. Spring: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the future of British Coal Enterprise. [36547]

Mr. Page: Following careful consideration of the options, the Government have accepted British Coal's recommendation that British Coal should invite competitive proposals for all or part of its British Coal Enterprise subsidiary. This will enable British Coal to take a clear view on the best way forward for BCE, having regard to its statutory duties and the importance of ensuring continuation of effective assistance to the coalfield communities. British Coal expects that the process will be concluded by March 1996.

Mr. Carrington: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement about the timetable for transferring remaining liabilities from the British Coal Corporation to the Secretary of State. [36544]

Mr. Page: The Department had already taken on responsibility for a number of British Coal liabilities, including for concessionary fuel, for certain pension fund contributions, and for health and injury liabilities to former British Coal employees who transferred to the private sector successor companies and the Coal Authority in respect of their past service with British Coal.

Where remaining liabilities, including those arising in connection with health-damage claims for former British Coal employees who have not transferred to private sector successor companies, are not otherwise dealt with, they will similarly be transferred by the end of 1997.

The Coal Industry Act 1994 provides that the corporation may be dissolved as soon as it appears to the Secretary of State that it is no longer necessary for the corporation to continue to exist. I would not expect to reach such a conclusion without being satisfied that there was proper provision for all outstanding liabilities to be honoured.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list those organisations and individuals who made representations to his Department supporting the sale of CINven separately from CINMan. [36299]

Mr. Eggar: The Department and British Coal have received a number of representations on the separate sale of CINVen. The decision to allow for a separate sale was made after consideration by all the interested parties, including CINMan, CINVen and trustees of the British Coal pension schemes as well as by British Coal and my Department.

Dual-use Exports

Mr. Carrington: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if the list of destinations subject to special licensing procedures for the export of dual-use goods published on 9 February, *Official Report*, column *353–54*, has been revised. [36543]

Mr. Nelson: Yes. Some licence applications for dual use goods to the following destinations are subject to special licensing procedures:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Burma, China (Peoples Republic of), Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, India, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrghystan, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Korea, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekhistan, Vietnam, Zaire.

This list is subject to regular review. In addition, some licence applications for destinations not listed are also subject to special licensing procedures.

The use of these procedures does not preclude the granting of an export licence.

Regional Assistance

Ms Armstrong: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what were the amounts of regional preferential assistance of each type invested in each region in each year since 1978–79 in cash and constant prices. [35474]

Mr. Eggar: Details of regional preferential assistance from 1978–79 to 1992–93 at current prices and at 1991–92 prices can be found in the *Official Report*, 31 March 1994, columns *1005–6*.

A regional breakdown of regional preferential assistance at cash and constant prices for 1993–94 and 1994–95 is given in the table.

More detailed analysis of regional preferential assistance could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	1993–94		*1994–95*	
	Current prices	*1991–92 prices*	*Current prices*	*1991–92 prices*
Northern	52.7	49.2	38.2	35.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	35.6	33.2	23.0	21.1
East Midlands	1.9	1.8	5.2	4.8
South West	9.5	8.9	9.2	8.4
West Midlands	14.4	13.4	14.7	13.5
North West	40.3	37.6	17.4	15.9
Merseyside[1]	—	—	15.0	13.7
East	—	—	0.7	0.6
South East	—	—	0.9	0.8
London	—	—	0.6	0.5
England	154.4	144.1	124.9	114.3

	1993–94		1994–95	
	Current prices	1991–92 prices	Current prices	1991–92 prices
Wales	118.8	110.8	[2]109.2	[2]100.1
Scotland	121.2	113.1	134.5	123.2
Great Britain	394.4	368.0	368.6	337.6

[1] Figures for Merseyside for earlier years are included in those for the North West.
[2] Welsh figures for 1994–95 are provisional.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the cost per job year of the financial inducements given under the regional selective assistance scheme in each year since 1993–95; and if he will make a statement. [34954]

Mr. Oppenheim: The figures requested are as follows:

Regional Selective Assistance—England

Average cost per job

1992–93: £4,473

1993–94: £4,083

1994–95: £4,364

Based on offers of grant accepted during the specified periods.

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how much his department provided by way of regional assistance to industry in constant prices by region in each year since 1979–80. [34644]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* The figures requested are as follows:

Expenditure on regional assistance at 1994–95 prices

Regional development grant — *£ million*

Region	1979–80	1980–81	1981–82	1982–83	1983–84	1984–85	1985–86	1986–87
Northern	306.5	248.9	277.8	229.2	174.4	145.9	104.7	154.1
North West	147.0	223.9	276.8	175.3	142.9	131.1	96.6	152.8
Yorkshire and Humberside	53.8	82.0	90.9	65.6	40.4	43.9	37.6	40.9
South West	12.5	18.0	19.9	19.8	13.4	15.6	13.4	23.1
East Midlands	6.0	6.8	13.9	15.9	14.1	6.2	6.8	12.7
West Midlands	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
England	525.9	579.9	679.3	505.8	385.2	342.8	259.1	383.6

Expenditure on regional assistance at 1994–95

Regional Development Grant — *£ million*

Region	1987–88	1988–89	1989–90	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95
Northern	87.5	109.0	81.4	41.3	17.9	8.7	1.5	0.2
North West	64.9	62.4	35.6	22.6	14.3	1.4	0.6	—
Yorkshire and Humberside	25.2	25.8	12.3	6.4	1.9	1.2	0.2	—
South West	10.0	8.9	4.4	1.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
East Midlands	10.0	10.5	10.2	4.5	1.6	0.3	0.4	—
West Midlands	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
England	197.7	216.5	143.9	76.1	36.1	11.6	2.8	0.4

Expenditure on regional assistance at 1994–95 prices

Regional selective assistance — *£ million*

Region	1979–80	1980–81	1981–82	1982–83	1983–84	1984–85	1985–86	1986–87
Northern	37.3	39.0	46.9	40.2	28.6	29.8	28.3	27.5
North West	75.1	45.6	30.5	34.8	25.3	26.6	22.2	29.1
Yorkshire and Humberside	22.0	13.3	14.7	20.2	16.4	18.9	14.5	16.1
South West	8.8	5.7	3.5	5.2	3.8	4.3	4.4	8.3
East Midlands	3.0	1.3	2.1	7.7	16.0	12.5	6.8	3.5
West Midlands	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.6	15.7
Merseyside[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England	146.3	104.9	97.7	108.1	90.0	92.0	85.8	102.2

[1] Figures for Merseyside for earlier years are included in those for the North West.

Expenditure on regional assistance at 1994–95 prices

Regional selective assistance — *£ million*

Region	1987–88	1988–89	1989–90	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95
Northern	36.7	48.2	40.9	33.3	30.5	29.5	33.5	36.7
North West	28.9	27.9	39.5	29.8	24.7	19.1	20.6	16.4
Yorkshire and Humberside	20.8	28.7	14.2	12.8	9.6	8.8	20.9	19.1
South West	6.3	6.2	5.9	5.1	6.0	5.4	6.7	8.2

Expenditure on regional assistance at 1994–95 prices

Regional selective assistance *£ million*

Region	*1987–88*	*1988–89*	*1989–90*	*1990–91*	*1991–92*	*1992–93*	*1993–94*	*1994–95*
East Midlands	3.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	0.9	0.6	0.7	3.1
West Midlands	26.9	33.8	24.8	20.9	9.5	11.3	14.1	13.7
Merseyside[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.4
East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.4
South East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.7
London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.4
England	123.1	146.2	126.6	103.5	81.2	74.8	96.5	113.1

Electro-shock Equipment

Mr. Malcolm Bruce: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what action his Department has taken to follow up allegations made in January 1995 in relation to the production, export and arrangement of sale of electro-shock weapons and equipment; if he has anything to add to previous parliamentary answers in respect of the allegations relating to electro-shock weapons and equipment; if he will initiate an inquiry in relation to the specific allegations made in respect of *(a)* ICL Technical Plastics of Glasgow and *(b)* British Aerospace/Royal Ordnance; and if he will make a statement. [31106]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 27 June 1995]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to him and to the hon. Member for Rossendale and Darwen (Ms Anderson) on 6 February, *Official Report*, column *5* and to the answer given to the hon. Member for Cynon Valley (Mrs. Clwyd) on 23 January, *Official Report*, column *23*. I have nothing to add to previous answers.

Exports to Iran

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when his Department received reports from Swedish customs of the outcome of their investigation into shipments to Iran which mentioned Royal Ordnance; and what action it took. [35335]

Mr. Oppenheim *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* No arrangements exist for the provision of information by overseas customs authorities to the Department of Trade and Industry. Any such information would be provided to HM Customs and Excise.

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what reports his Department received concerning the shipping of goods to Iran in September 1985 by MV Sea Trader, June 1986 by MS Jotun and in August 1986 by MV Gritt Clipper IV, and if he will make a statement. [35342]

Mr. Oppenheim *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* It is not clear what the hon. Member is alluding to. However, if he believes that he has information relevant to a breach of export controls, it would be helpful if he could please provide it to the Department.

East Midlands Electricity

Mr. Barnes: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what information he holds on the use of compulsory purchase orders by East Midlands Electricity to obtain leasing rights in connection with the provision of sub-stations on, and wayleaves over, public land; and if he will make a statement. [33698]

Mr. Page *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* My right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade is currently considering an application for a compulsory wayleave under paragraph 6 of schedule 4 to the Electricity Act 1989 over land in Leicester whose ownership cannot be identified.

There is no information that the company has applied for any compulsory purchase orders to obtain rights over public land.

Mr. Barnes: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what information he holds on the levels of payments for leases by East Midlands Electricity in connection with the provision of sub-stations on, and wayleaves over, public land; and if he will make a statement. [33697]

Mr. Page *[holding answer 13 July 1995]:* This information is unavailable since payments for leases and wayleaves are commercial matters for the company.

Utilities (Pricing)

Ms Armstrong: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what discussions he has had with the private utilities in respect of pricing structure with special reference to the balance between standing charges and unit costs. [35475]

Mr. Eggar: This is a matter for the companies and the directors general.

Cabling Operations, Essex and Kent

Mr. Channon: To ask the President of the Board of Trade under what conditions he has granted a licence to United Artists Communications to install a cable communication network in Essex and north Kent; if those conditions require the company to make good the pavements which they have disrupted; and if he will make a statement. [35792]

Mr. Ian Taylor: United Artists Communications has been granted powers under section 10 of the Telecommunications Act 1984 to install cable systems in the maintainable highway, and with appropriate consent, on private land. The Telecommunications Act licences it holds for its franchises in Essex and north Kent include conditions designed to ensure the company operates in a responsible manner and adheres to all relevant street works legislation. The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, and its associated regulations, set the standard of street works. The Act places a duty on the undertaker to carry out the reinstatement of the road surface to standards prescribed in regulation and set out in a code of practice. Local highways authorities are responsible for

enforcement of the code. Both interim and permanent reinstatements must conform with the statutory national specification and all cases of defective reinstatement which are identified by the local highway authority must be rectified at the undertaker's expense.

British Nuclear Fuels

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which posts within his Department are currently filled by staff seconded from BNFL. [36298]

Mr. Eggar: There are currently two staff seconded from BNFL working in the Department. One is in environment and energy technologies division, and the other is in atomic energy division. Both are at grade 7 level.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is his status as a shadow director of BNFL; what powers this gives him; to whom he answers for the exercise of his responsibilities, and if the Companies Act 1985 section 741(2) applies to this role. [36202]

Mr. Eggar: The appointment of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry as a shadow director, within the meaning of section 741(2) of the Companies Act 1985, of British Nuclear Fuels plc has been notified to the Registrar of Companies. The appointment of itself confers no powers on him. In broad terms, my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade answers in Parliament on matters directly relating to Government policy, in so far as BNFL is concerned while day to day affairs of the company are for the board of BNFL.

Small Business, Yorkshire

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment his Department made of the effect on employment in south Yorkshire of the withdrawal at the end of December 1995 of special aid to small and medium-sized businesses in areas affected by the decline of mining, shipbuilding and textile industries. [34535]

Mr. Page: This particular aid which was made under the flexible business support measures scheme was made available by the Government, in mining and shipbuilding areas, through some of the European structural funds programmes during the period 1989–93. These have all been monitored and will be evaluated to assess their impact.

The needs of small and medium-sized businesses in south Yorkshire have been and will continue to be met, and on a larger scale, in the implementation of the successor structural funds programmes. For example, the Yorkshire and Humberside objective 2 area single programming document approved for 1994–96 provides £10.3 million to be used to increase expenditure on DTI measures to help SMEs.

Export Promotion Service

Mr. Clapham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the relative level of satisfaction in respect of the export promotion service recorded for *(a)* small service businesses and *(b)* other exporters. [36300]

Mr. Nelson: My Department has a regular customer satisfaction survey that collects information on the satisfaction levels for all chargeable services. This quarterly survey employs a random sample methodology of users. It is not possible, therefore, to separate out the small service companies from the rest.

However, it should be noted that the overall satisfaction level for all services is 75 per cent.

Military Exports

Mr. Cousins: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to his answer of 25 May, *Official Report*, column *676*, if copies of contracts and purchase orders are supplied in every case of military list exports to overseas Governments; and from which date contracts and purchase orders have been insisted upon in every case. [29761]

Mr. Ian Taylor: The guidance notes on completing an export licence application state that details of contracts or purchase orders are required in support of all export license applications for military list exports to overseas governments. In the past it was not insisted upon in every case: to establish the practice operated at earlier dates would involve disproportionate cost.

Mr. Cousins: To ask the President of the Board of Trade in what circumstances copies of contracts or purchase orders from Government Departments of military list export destination countries were not supplied to the export licensing unit in the case of arms contracts with governments; and, in the case of Jordan, the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia, for what reasons such exceptions were allowed. [27341]

Mr. Ian Taylor: It is not possible to establish from my Department's records the circumstances in which, in operating the procedure described in my answer *Official Report*, 15 May 1995, column *21*, licensing officers decided that particular types of supporting material were not required in particular cases. The statement by the right hon. Friend the Member for Henley (Mr. Heseltine) on 13 June 1995 referred to a sample taken of licence applications to discover what percentage did not have supporting documentation and for no other purpose. It is not the present practice to allow any exception to the requirements to provide the necessary documents in support of applications for export licences for sales of military equipment to Governments.

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many export licences for goods on the military list were granted to Royal Ordnance in 1985 and 1986; and how many did not have full supporting documentation. [35338]

Mr. Oppenheim *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

BMARC

Mr. Cousins: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if the intelligence reports of July and September 1988 referred to in his recent statement on BMARC were distributed to members of the restricted enforcement unit. [29725]

Mr. Ian Taylor: It is long-standing Government policy not to provide detailed information on the activities of the security and intelligence agencies. The effectiveness of the restrictive enforcement unit depends on preserving the confidentiality of its work.

The Trade and Industry Select Committee has announced an inquiry into the role of DTI in granting licences to BMARC for the export of naval guns to Singapore, and this is the proper forum for further research.

Mr. Byers: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when he expects to reply to the question from the hon. Member for Wallsend concerning directors of BMARC due for answer on 19 June. [36105]

Mr. Nelson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 14 July, *Official Report*, column *841*.

Offshore Oil and Gas

Mr. Cox: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what has been the total revenue received by the United Kingdom Government from the selling of offshore oil or gas licenses since 1979. [34760]

Mr. Eggar: Since 1979, tender receipts from offshore licensing have totalled £154 million, of which £33 million was received from the 8th round in 1982–83 and £121 million from the 9th round in 1984–85.

Mr. Dafis: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what information he has on the use already made of pseudo-oil-based drill muds in oil and gas exploration in the Celtic sea. [35531]

Mr. Page: Information is submitted to my Department in respect of the fluids to be used in the drilling of any well on the UK continental shelf, including the Celtic sea. In the case of pseudo-oil-based muds, that information relates to the characteristics of the particular mud and the amount of pseudo-oil on the drill cuttings.

Monopolies and Mergers Commission Reports

Ms Roseanna Cunningham: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what were the total costs involved in producing the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reports on *(a)* Stagecoach Holdings plc and Mainline Partnership Ltd., *(b)* Stagecoach Holdings plc and SB Holdings Ltd., *(c)* North East of England Buses Monopoly and *(d)* Stagecoach Holdings plc and Ayrshire Bus Owners (A1 Service Ltd.). [35366]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The estimated total costs in producing each of these reports is:

(a) Stagecoach Holdings plc and Mainline Partnership Ltd.: £194,000

(b) Stagecoach Holdings plc and SB Holdings Ltd.: £185,000

(c) Monopoly report on bus services in North East England: £646,000

In the case of Stagecoach Holdings plc and Ayrshire Bus Owners (A1 Services Ltd.), this inquiry is still under way so it is not possible to provide an estimated total final cost.

Lloyd's

Mr. Darling: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what representations his Department has received from Lloyd's of London in connection with proposed amendments to the Lloyd's Act 1982; and if he will make a statement. [35678]

Mr. Nelson: I have received no formal proposals, but the chairman of Lloyd's has from time to time suggested that it would be helpful to the evolution of Lloyd's if future chairmen could be selected from a wider pool than the working community at Lloyd's. Such a change would require an amendment to the private Lloyd's Act 1982 and would be for Lloyd's itself to promote.

Post Office Savings Account

Mr. Davidson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what stage the Post Office had reached in planning its own savings account; and if he will make a statement. [33649]

Mr. Oppenheim: The Post Office already offers a savings account on behalf of the department of national savings. The two organisation are considering ways in which existing arrangements might be improved for the benefit of customers but the outcome of this work should not be prejudged.

Female Employees

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what measures his Department has taken to encourage the promotion of women into senior positions within his Department and its executive agencies. [35673]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The Department is committed to equality for all its employees, including female staff. This includes ensuring that recruitment and promotion is made on merit.

The Department is a member of Opportunity 2000 and has drawn up a number of goals aimed at achieving a better balance work-force. This is supported by a three-year rolling programme of action.

The proportion of women is steadily increasing at all management levels in the Department. Women now make up 10.6 per cent. of staff at grades 1 to 3. This compares well with the private sector, where women are believed to make up 3 per cent. of directors and 4 per cent. of board members. Women also comprise 18.8 per cent. and 16.2 per cent of staff at grade levels 4 and 5 respectively. Some 5.2 per cent. of staff at grade level 1 to 5 work part time.

In 1993, the DTI published a summary of progress on equal opportunities for female staff in the Department since 1984. This also includes the departmental action plan and Opportunity 2000 goals. A copy is in the Library of the House.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list *(a)* the number of (i) male and (ii) female employees, *(b)* the number officials employed at each of the principal grades and percentages of women employed at these grades and *(c)* the numbers of staff employed at administrative grades and the number and percentages of these staff that are women, in his Department and for each of its executive agencies for each year since 1985. [35684]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The information requested is not readily available in the time available. I will write separately to the hon. Member.

Telephones

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what representations his Department has received from the security services opposing legislation to outlaw mobile phone cloning; [35704]

(2) what contracts have taken place between his Department and the Ministry of Defence relating to the legislative position of the cloning of mobile phones. [35703]

Mr. Ian Taylor: In accordance with precedent. the Government do not comment on issues relating to national security. On 13 June I established an industry and Government study group to examine the serious problem of mobile phone fraud, and any recommendations for action coming out of that group, which will report back in September will be subject to consultation within Government in the normal way.

Departmental Staff, Coventry

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list separately, by each office of his Department, the numbers and grades of casuals, fixed appointments and vacancies in the Coventry travel-to-work area. [33779]

Mr. Page: The only DTI staff working in the Coventry travel-to-work area are to be based at Coventry business link which opened in May 1995. The permanent staff transferring to work on 24 July will be the higher executive officer, one executive officer and one administrative officer. The remaining administrative assistant post was advertised to Government Departments in the Coventry area but could not be filled. Arrangements are in hand for this remaining vacancy to be filled by a casual appointment.

Supermarket Pricing Policies

Mr. Barry Field: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what studies have been made of supermarket pricing policies; and what percentage are supermarket prices in the total shopping basket monitoring that comprises the retail prices index data. [35192]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The Office of Fair Trading keeps supermarket behaviour under review. A 1992 OFT review of market concentration and the profitability of the leading supermarket chains provided no basis for concluding action under the competition legislation was needed.

For the calculation of the retail prices index, the major supermarkets are given weights proportionate to their estimated market shares. These weights vary from item to item and from month to month. An estimate of supermarkets' share of the total RPI basket could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Lackenby-Picton-Shipton Power Line

Mr. John Greenway: To ask the President of the Board of Trade when he expects to receive the inspectors report on the public inquiry into the National Grid proposal for the Lackenby-Picton-Shipton power line. [33652]

Mr. Page: The timing of the report is a matter for the inquiry inspectors.

Nigeria (Military Exports)

Mr. Keith Hill: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many licences have been issued for the export of lethal military equipment to the Nigerian police force since December 1993. [29206]

Mr. Ian Taylor: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to reveal details of export licences or applications for licences unless the requirements of confidentiality are outweighed by the public interest.

Mr. Tony Lloyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) if the export licence granted for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under ML1 classification included rifles, carbines, revolvers, pistols, machine pistols, machine guns, smooth bore weapons specially designed for military use or weapons using caseless ammunition; [32622]

(2) if the export licence granted for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under the ML2 classification included guns, howitzers, cannon, mortars, tank destroyers, projectile launchers, military flame throwers or recoilless rifles; [32623]

(3) if the export licence granted for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under the ML3 classification included ammunition for rifles, carbines, revolvers, pistols, machine pistols, machine guns, smooth bore weapons specially designed for military use, weapons using caseless ammunition, howitzers, cannon, mortars, tank destroyers, projectile launchers, military flame throwers recoilles rifles; [32624]

(4) if the export licence granted for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under the ML4 classification included bombs, torpedoes, grenades, smoke canisters, rockets, mines, missiles, depth charges, demolition charges, devices and kits, military pyrotechnics, cartridges or simulators; [32625]

(5) if the export licence granted for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under the ML6 classification included tanks, self-propelled guns, armed armoured vehicles and vehicles fitted with mountings for arms, gun-carriers or tractors and trailers specially designed for towing or transporting ammunition or weapons systems; [32626]

(6) if the export licence granted for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under the ML7 classification included biological agents and radioactive materials adapted for use in war to produce casualties in humans or animals, degrade equipment, or damage crops, or the environment, chemical warfare agents or riot control agents; [32627]

(7) if the export licence for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under the ML8 classification included military explosives or propellants; [32628]

(8) if the export licence granted for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under the ML9 classification included vessels of war, special naval equipment or accessories; [32629]

(9) if the export licence granted for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under the ML10 classification included aircraft, aero-engines, aircraft equipment and related equipment specially designed or modified for military use; [32630]

(10) if the export licence granted for non-lethal military equipment to Nigeria in 1994 under the ML14 classification included specialised military training equipment. [32631]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answers 10 July 1995]:* It has been the practice of successive Governments not to reveal details of export licences or applications for licences unless the requirements of confidentiality are outweighed by the public interest.

Swimming Pool Safety

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what recent studies he has evaluated into swimming pool safety at holiday resorts; what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* tour operators guarantee minimum safety standards for tourists equivalent to those in the United Kingdom, *(b)* that tour operators check the safety provisions at all facilities which are advertised for holidays from the United Kingdom and *(c)* to make tour operators fully liable for any damage or injury to tourists from the United Kingdom incurred as a result of poor or dangerous facilities that they have advertised. [36190]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: I am aware of the recent report by the Consumers Association.

All major holiday companies operating from the United Kingdom observe a strict code of safety practice drawn up, at the instigation of the Association of British Travel Agents, by the International Federation of Tour Operators. This covers swimming pool safety.

Organisers of packages are liable for the proper performance of the obligations under the contract, irrespective of whether such obligations are performed by the tour operator himself, or by another supplier of services. They may also owe a duty of care to their customers. I am not persuaded of the need to go further.

National Engineering Laboratory

Mr. Ingram: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the future of the National Engineering Laboratory. [34568]

Mr. Ian Taylor: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 17 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *897*.

Insolvency Service

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will publish the names and addresses of those individuals, firms and companies who have expressed an interest in tendering for the work of the Insolvency Service. [34527]

Mr. Oppenheim: No, this information is commercially confidential.

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, if the £1.3 million allocated to the Insolvency Service for the contracting out exercise has been found from savings from his Department's allocation from the Treasury for this financial year. [34523]

Mr. Oppenheim: The money allocated to cover the contracting out exercise will be found from within the Department's agreed budget for this financial year.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what action he is taking to ensure that bankrupts and those who became insolvent are able to comply with the investigation of a contracted-out Insolvency Service with no more travel than is presently necessary. [35073]

Mr. Oppenheim: A benchmark service standard for any contracting out would be accessibility at current levels. Any reorganisation of official receivers' offices will need to ensure that bankrupts and company directors do not have to travel excessive distances to attend interviews with the official receiver.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many staff his Department estimates will be required to fulfil the official receiver's investigatory role following the contracting out of his case administration functions. [350175]

Mr. Oppenheim: Only when negotiations with potential providers have been completed and decisions taken on contracting out will it be possible to determine the size and shape of the Insolvency Service necessary to carry out its investigative and other remaining functions.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many Insolvency Service staff will be made redundant or transferred should the functions of the official receiver be contracted out. [35194]

Mr. Oppenheim: Only when negotiations with potential bidders have been completed would it be possible to determine the type of bids to be received—for instance, TUPE or non-TUPE—and, as a result the residual size and shape of the Insolvency Service. If a decision were made to contract out we would wish to avoid redundancies wherever possible.

Bankruptcies, Huddersfield

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many *(a)* bankruptcy orders and *(b)* winding-up orders have been made in Huddersfield county court for each of the last six years. [35015]

Mr. Oppenheim: The total numbers of bankruptcy and winding-up orders made in the Huddersfield county court in each of the last six years were as follows:

Year ended 31 December	*Number of bankruptcy orders*	*Number of winding-up orders*
1989	31	3
1990	26	4
1991	83	7
1992	87	3
1993	74	2
1994	66	2

Official Receiver, Sheffield

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many bankruptcies and companies in liquidation, whose administration has not been finalised, are being dealt with by the official receiver's office, Sheffield at the present time. [34525]

Mr. Oppenheim: The total number of cases in which the official receiver, Sheffield is still to obtain his release as at 30 June 1995 are bankruptcies: 189, companies: 35.

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement about the future of the official receiver's office, Sheffield, if the work of the Insolvency Service is partially contracted out. [34524]

Mr. Oppenheim: No decisions have yet been taken in relation to the residual size and location of the Insolvency Service, should contracting-out go ahead. It is not expected that a decision will be able to be made regarding the future of the official receiver's office, Sheffield, until conclusions on contracting out have been reached.

Mrs. Helen Jackson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement as to the effects the contracting out of the administrative functions of the official receiver will have on investigation of fraud in the Sheffield area. [34526]

Mr. Oppenheim: Advice received from consultants was that the contracting out of their administrative functions would enable official receivers throughout the country to concentrate more on their investigatory role.

Rom Data Corporation

Mr. Jamieson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade on what date Mr. John Dawson and Mr. Brad Shephard, formerly directors of Rom Data Corporation in Cornwall, were last interviewed by his Department, and for what reason; and when his Department next intends to interview Mr. Dawson in relation to the company. [34652]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* A departmental official met Mr. Brad Shephard on 29 October 1993 in connection with earlier grant payments. So far as the future is concerned, the company is in the hands of the liquidators, and the Department will review any action following their report.

Mr. Jamieson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what representations were received by his Department in relation to the grant to Rom Data Corporation of Falmouth in 1994; and whether they contained any unfavourable reports about the company or its directors. [34651]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* No grant was paid to the company in 1994. Various exchanges took place with the company and its bankers in connection with the small firms loan guarantee. My hon. Friend the Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Mr. Coe) wrote to the Government office for the south-west in December 1994 drawing attention to the company's problems.

Mr. Jamieson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to his answer of 2 March, *Official Report*, column *720*, what action he intends to take against the directors of Rom Data Corporation in Cornwall. [34653]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The company is still in the hands of the liquidators who have yet to report their findings. When they have done so I will consider what action, if any, it is necessary to take.

Mr. Jamieson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, pursuant to his answer of 2 March, *Official Report*, column *719*, if his Department was aware of the previous business and bankruptcy records of directors of Rom Data Corporation in Cornwall before making grants to the company in *(a)* 1991–92 and *(b)* 1994. [34648]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The Department made certain inquiries into the background of the directors prior to the offer of grant in 1991. However, the bankruptcy record referred to did not come to light at the time.

No grants were offered in 1994.

Mr. Jamieson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what factors influenced his Department when making a grant in 1994 to Rom Data, Cornwall; and if he will make a statement. [34649]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* No grant was offered to the company in 1994. The National Westminster Bank decided to make a loan available to the company under the Department's small firms loan guarantee scheme.

Mr. Jamieson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade on what date his Department was first contacted by hon. Members in relation to Rom Data Corporation in Cornwall. [34650]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* Contact was first made on 3 December 1992.

Small Company Liquidations

Mrs. Liddell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many petitions to put small companies into liquidation have been started by Government Departments in each of the last four years. [34505]

Mr. Oppenheim: This information is not maintained by my Department.

Regulatory Policy

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what attempts his Department has made to repatriate regulatory policy in line with the principle of subsidiarity; and if he will make a statement. [34955]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: The Government attach considerable importance to the remit given by the Cannes European Council to the Commission to report on progress in applying subsidiarity across the range of the Community's policy areas. The Commission is to present this report for discussion at the Madrid European Council in December. Over the last two years my Department, with others in Whitehall, has suggested to the Commission EC measures which we consider should be withdrawn or amended under the principle of subsidiarity. We shall continue to press them to apply this principle.

Samsung, Cleveland

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the total cost to public funds of the financial package offered to Samsung to induce its investment in Cleveland; and if he will make a statement. [35010]

Mr. Oppenheim: My Department offered regional selective assistance grant and loans totalling £58 million, against a proposed investment of £450 million by the company, in 1994 to secure the Samsung investment for the United Kingdom. The project is expected to create at least 3,000 jobs in Cleveland. RSA assistance will be paid out over the next ten years or so as the various elements of the Samsung investment proceed and the jobs involved are created. In addition, a number of other agencies agreed to provide local support covering training and employment allowances, the development of a dedicated training centre and necessary infrastructure and premises development related to the investment. Much of this local support will not be in the form of grant to Samsung but will fall in the current and future work and training programmes of the agencies concerned.

India (Trade Barriers)

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what representations his Department has made to the Indian Government regarding trade liberalisation; and if he will make a statement. [34934]

Mr. Nelson: My Department has regularly lobbied the Indian Government regarding trade liberalisation particularly in the context of the Indo-British partnership. Recently India has followed a programme of removal of trade barriers but more needs to be done, particularly on high tariffs, restrictions on imports of consumer goods, transparency of procedures, protection of intellectual property rights, and the opening up of public sector monopolies particularly in finance and insurance.

In line with the strategy on trade barriers launched by the then President of the Board of Trade on 28 June this Department will continue to press India to remove barriers to trade in bilateral contacts and where appropriate through the World Trade Organisation in concert with our EU partners.

Sri Lanka (Exports)

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the annual value of United Kingdom exports to Sri Lanka; what proportion of this amount can be attributed to the armaments industry; and if he will make a statement. [34958]

Mr. Nelson: The annual value of United Kingdom exports to Sir Lanka are as follows:

£ million

	1992	*1993*	*1994*
Exports	103.2	126.2	153.9

Statistics showing the proportion of this amount that can be attributed to the armaments industry are confidential.

Sri Lanka has been designated a priority market by the DTI for British trade and investment. Two-way trade is on the increase and there are substantial opportunities for British firms across a wide range of sectors.

Teaching Company Scheme Centres

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the universities at which teaching company scheme centres have been established; and if he will make a statement. [34940]

Mr. Ian Taylor: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Barnsley, West and Penistone (Mr. Clapham) on 4 July 1995, *Official Report*, column *148*.

Elimination of Trade Barriers

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is his policy in respect of the unilateral eliminations of barriers to trade by the EU; and if he will make a statement. [34935]

Mr. Oppenheim: My Department is working for the removal of barriers to trade, both within the European Union and in third markets. Fair and open access to markets throughout the world is vital to the prosperity of the United Kingdom.

British Investment Overseas

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the value of direct British investment overseas in each year since 1992–93; and if he will make a statement. [34950]

Mr. Nelson: Direct investment overseas by UK residents amounted to £10.8 billion in 1992, £17.1 billion in 1993 and £16.4 billion in 1994. The UK's earnings from overseas direct investment were a record £21.9 billion in 1994.

Inward Investments

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the number of jobs created or safeguarded by inward investment in Wales in each year since 1992–93; and if he will make a statement. [34947]

Mr. Eggar: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that I gave on 18 July to the hon. Member for Caernarfon (Mr. Wigley).

Mr. Morgan: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will give for each of the statistical regions of England the share of all inward investment projects coming to the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years as measured by *(a)* numbers of projects and *(b)* numbers of jobs to be created. [35170]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* For the financial years 1984–85 to 1994–95 the proportion of inward investment decisions and number of jobs created in each of the regions of England are as follows:

Region	Percentage of projects	Percentage jobs created
1984–85		
East Midlands	2.5	2.2
North east	8.3	5.6
North west	13.4	7.7
South east	21.2	23.6
South west	4.2	5.3
West Midlands	6.3	7.9
Yorkshire and Humberside	3.7	1.0
1985–86		
East Midlands	5.4	3.7
North east	6.1	7.5
North west	9.2	8.5
South east	22.3	14.4
South west	4.3	7.0
West Midlands	19.7	21.6
Yorkshire and Humberside	3.5	7.7
1986–87		
East Midlands	2.8	1.9
North east	10.6	13.1
North west	6.7	6.0
South east	18.5	12.1
South west	3.0	2.2
West Midlands	18.8	27.1
Yorkshire and Humberside	5.6	1.8
1987–88		
East	0.5	0.08
East Midlands	3.3	1.4
North east	6.0	10.3
North west	9.0	5.7
South east	16.2	29.7
South west	3.0	2.6
West Midlands	17.6	10.4
Yorkshire and Humberside	7.4	5.7
1988–89		
East	0.2	0.06
East Midlands	6.3	5.1
North east	10.6	10.1
North west	11.4	7.5
South east	9.7	9.0
South west	1.7	1.4
West Midlands	21.2	14.1
Yorkshire and Humberside	6.6	6.5
1989–90		
East	0.8	0.8
East Midlands	3.4	9.1
North east	10.4	11.1
North west	16.0	8.5
South east	4.0	2.1
South west	1.6	4.1
West Midlands	25.4	20.3
Yorkshire and Humberside	5.0	5.6
1990–91		
East	1.6	1.8
East Midlands	3.2	7.0
North east	10.9	9.0
North west	18.4	9.5
South east	4.6	3.3
South west	0.8	2.4
West Midlands	19.5	19.3
Yorkshire and Humberside	7.1	5.2
1991–92		
East	3.1	2.6
East Midlands	1.4	1.3
North east	11.0	16.4
North west	21.2	6.6
South east	8.2	5.1
South west	2.5	9.7
West Midlands	13.3	8.4
Yorkshire and Humberside	4.8	7.3
1992–93		
East	2.4	2.0
East Midlands	2.1	1.0
North east	10.5	12.9
North west	9.0	5.5
South east	6.0	6.8
South west	2.1	1.5
West Midlands	12.9	8.7
Yorkshire and Humberside	13.2	7.2
1993–94		
East	3.2	1.5
East Midlands	5.1	10.5
North east	8.8	7.3
North west	7.4	7.6
South east	4.6	2.9
South west	2.7	3.4
West Midlands	19.4	11.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	9.2	7.6
1994–95		
East	2.7	2.2
East Midlands	10.1	8.2
North east	8.7	15.0
North west	11.2	5.3
South east	8.5	8.7
South west	4.8	3.7
West Midlands	14.2	13.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	4.8	6.2

Mr. Wigley: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the number of new and safeguarded jobs brought by inward investors into each of the standard regions of the United Kingdom and for the United Kingdom as a whole for each year since 1992–93; and if he will indicate the percentage of the United Kingdom total for each standard region, and the average increase or decrease in proportional terms of this percentage during the last year. [34858]

Mr. Eggar *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The number of new and safeguarded jobs associated with inward investment decisions in each of the regions of the United Kingdom for each year since 1992–93 are as follows:

Region	New jobs (percentage)	Safeguarded jobs (percentage)
1992–93		
East	363 (2.0)	10,632 (24.2)
East Midlands	183 (1.0)	405 (0.9)
North east	2,312 (12.9)	3,210 (7.3)
Northern Ireland	2,742 (15.3)	1,357 (3.0)
North west	992 (5.5)	3,763 (8.5)
Scotland	4,497 (25.2)	4,198 (9.5)
South east	1,212 (6.8)	6,128 (13.9)
South west	285 (1.5)	995 (2.2)
Wales	2,382 (13.3)	4,949 (11.2)
West Midlands	1,568 (8.7)	2,669 (6.0)
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,286 (7.2)	5,529 (12.6)
Total	17,822	43,825

Region	New jobs (Percentage)	Safeguarded jobs (Percentage)
1993–94		
East	482 (1.5)	1,231 (1.7)
East Midlands	3,218 (10.5)	210 (0.3)
North east	2,256 (7.3)	3,981 (5.7)
North Ireland	3,030 (9.9)	601 (0.8)
North west	2,322 (7.6)	2,312 (3.3)
Scotland	7,635 (24.9)	4,639 (6.6)
South east	916 (2.9)	5,950 (8.5)
South west	1,065 (3.4)	1,112 (1.5)
Wales	3,913 (12.8)	2,651 (3.8)
West Midlands	3,370 (11.0)	42,069 (61.7)
Yorkshire and Humberside	2,329 (7.6)	3,998 (5.7)
UK total	30,536	69,754

Region	New jobs (Percentage)	Percentage of change	Safeguarded jobs (Percentage)	Percentage of change
1994–95				
East	842 (2.2)	+1.7	1,620 (3.1)	+1.4
East Midlands	3,028 (8.2)	–2.3	8,642 (16.9)	+16.6
North east	5,550 (15.0)	+7.7	3,649 (7.1)	+1.4
Northern Ireland	3,138 (8.5)	–1.4	2,008 (3.9)	+3.1
North west	1,956 (5.3)	–2.3	5,267 (10.3)	+7.0
Scotland	7,678 (20.8)	–14.1	3,117 (6.0)	–0.6
South east	3,213 (8.7)	–5.8	14,775 (28.8)	+20.3
South west	1,386 (3.7)	+0.3	707 (1.3)	–0.2
Wales	2,989 (8.1)	–4.7	2,014 (3.9)	+0.1
West Midlands	4,797 (13.0)	+2.0	7,469 (14.6)	–47.1
Yorkshire and Humberside	2,299 (6.2)	–1.4	1,865 (3.6)	–2.1
UK total	36,876		51,133	

The unsually high number of safeguarded jobs for the west midlands in 1993–94 includes those arising from BMW/Rover.

The figures are based on the number of projects notified to the Invest in Britain Bureau at the time of the decision to invest. Companies are under no obligation to notify their investment decisions and the figures take not account of subsequent developments.

Manufacturing Productivity

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which region of the United Kingdom has seen the largest proportionate increase in manufacturing productivity since 1979; and if he will make a statement. [34953]

Mr. Nelson: Regional estimates of manufacturing productivity are not available.

SMART and SPUR Awards

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what proportion of SMART awards in 1994 were given to Welsh individuals or firms; and if he will make a statement; [34941]

(2) what proportion of SPUR awards in 1994 were given to Welsh firms; and if he will make a statement. [34959]

Mr. Ian Taylor: In 1994 the number of SMART awards—stages 1 and 2—in Wales was 31, with a total value of £1.414 million. This was 10 per cent. of the national total. The number of SPUR awards in Wales was 13, with a total value of £1.331 million. This was 13 per cent. of the national total. From 1 April 1994, financial responsibility for SMART and SPUR in Wales has rested with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales.

Invest in Britain Bureau

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many people are employed by his Department's Invest in Britain Bureau; and if he will make a statement. [34953]

Mr. Oppenheim: There are currently 52 people employed by the Invest in Britain Bureau. This number is expected to increase shortly to about 60, as part of the strengthening of the national inward investment promotional effort.

Export Promoters (Salary)

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the average annual salary paid to his Department's export promoters; and if he will make a statement. [34956]

Mr. Nelson: Companies are asked to bear the full pay roll costs of seconding senior executives, typically for two years. The Department has negotiated a pay roll contribution in some cases where smaller companies cannot bear the full cost of loss of a person and the salary or for geographical markets in which there are fewer experienced executives available. The Department's current average pay roll contribution per export promoter is £19,500, which is considerably less than the average cost to companies of secondment.

We have now successfully completed the first two and a half years of the initiative. This partnership between Government and the private sector is helping British business to win in overseas markets. We have recruited 124 export promoters so far and have assurances from a number of companies that they are identifying high-calibre people to put forward in order to maintain the numbers at 100 in post.

Departmental Redundancies

Mr. McCartney: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many redundancies occurred in his Department over the last 12 months; how many were voluntary; and what was the total sum spent on redundancy payments. [34619]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* In the 12 months starting 1 July 1994 there were 74 redundancies from the Department, of which 61 were voluntary.

The information requested on the sum spent on redundancy payments will take some time to prepare. I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Sick Absences

Mr. McCartney: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many days were lost in sickness in the last 12 months by employees in his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the number of days worked; and what was the cost of this absence. [34618]

Mr. Jonathan Evans *[holding answer 14 July 1995]:* The number of days lost in the 12 months ended 31 May 1995 was 55,107, excluding the Department's executive agencies. It has not been possible in the time available to adjust this figure to take account of sickness absence that has spanned weekends or public holidays and these extra days are included in the total.

In 1994, the Department's average absence rate, adjusted for weekends and public holidays, was 3.9 per cent. but it is not practicable to calculate an adjusted rate for the 12 months ended 31 May 1995. The cost to the Department of the sickness absence could be provided only at disproportionate expense.

Gas Supply (Hampshire)

Mr. David Martin: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what assessment he has made of the potential effect on domestic consumers of the introduction of competition with gas supplying Hampshire. [34757]

Mr. Eggar: Domestic consumers in Hampshire will be able to benefit from competition in gas supply which is scheduled to be introduced nationally in 1998. Competition will exert a powerful downward pressure on average prices and provide strong incentives for efficiency and providing the quality of service that customers want. Independent suppliers have said they expect to be able to offer domestic customers average savings of 10 per cent. compared with British Gas's current prices.

Manuactured Goods

Mr. Milburn: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list in percentage change order the 50 classifications of manufactured goods which have shown greatest import growth since 1979 and the balance of trade deficit of surplus n each since then. [35409.]

Mr. Nelson *[Holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The available information is given in the table.

United Kingdom Trade
£ million, current prices

Classification	*Imports percentage change 1979–94*	*Crude balance 1994*
Medical and pharmaceutical products	898	1,697
Office machines and ADP machines	702	–1,162
Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliance nes	648	–690
Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials	586	790

United Kingdom Trade
£.million, current prices

Classification	*Imports percentage change 1979–94*	*Crude balance 1994*
Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing equipment	531	–211
Prefabricated buildings; plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fitting	470	–162
Miscellaneous manufactured articles nes	449	–803
Dying tanning, and colouring materials	383	664
Rubber manufactures nes	381	–68
Power generating machinery and equipment	366	2,133
Professional, scientific and controlling instruments nes	364	709
Furniture and parts thereof	347	–428
Plastics	347	–938
Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	326	–279
Footwear	311	–973
Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	310	–6,774
Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	307	–2,179
General industrial machinery and machine parts nes	295	209
Manufactures of metal nes	273	–243
Chemical materials and products nes	253	1,061
Organic chemicals	244	1,207
Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	240	–2,233
Fertilisers (other than those of group 272)	236	–238
Photographic and optical equipment; watches and clocks	230	–272
Other transport equipment	205	412
Machinery specialised for particular industries	184	1,018
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles nes and related products	166	–1,570
Iron and steel	141	739
Inorganic chemicals	141	36
Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	122	–863
Non-ferrous metals	94	–793
Metalworking machinery	80	61
Non-metallic mineral manufactures nes	36	163
Leather, leather manufactures nes and dressed furskins	20	102

Consultants

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to *(a)* Coopers and Lybrand and its subsidiaries, *(b)* Peat Marwick and its subsidiaries, *(c)* Ernst and Young and its subsidiaries, *(d)* Arthur Andersen and its subsidiaries, *(e)* Price Waterhouse and its subsidiaries, *(f)* Grant Thorton and its subsidiaries, *(g)* Stoy Hayward and its subsidiaries, *(h)* Robson Rhodes and its subsidiaries and *(i)* Pannell Kerr Forster and its subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993–94 and 1994–95. [33907]

Mr. Lang:

Company	*Value*	*Number*
1993–94		
Coopers and Lybrand	550,149	6
Ernst and Young	87,102	7
KPMG Management Consultants	588,870	13
Price Waterhouse	1,698,975	4
Stoy Hayward	118,000	2
1994–95		
Coopers and Lybrand	225,980	3
Anderson Consulting	101,200	2
Ernst and Young	57,399	4

The figures shown relate to contracts issued centrally and do not include those let independently by the Department's executive agencies.

I have asked the agency chief executives to reply separately to this question.

Letter from R. D. Worswick to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 18 July 1995:

I have been asked to answer with respect to the Laboratory of the Government Chemist your question to the President of the Board of Trade tabled on 6 July 1995.

In 1993–94 LGC did not let any contracts to any of the firms listed.

In 1994–95 we let four contracts to Coopers and Lybrand. The total value of these (excluding VAT) was £241,000.

Letter from S. Reid to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 19 July 1995:

The President of the Board of Trade has asked me to provide you with information relating to the Patent Office as part of the reply to your question about consultancy contracts for the years 1993–94 and 1994–95.

According to our records, the Patent Office did not let any contracts during the period in question to Coopers and Lybrand, Peat Marwick, Ernst and Young, Arthur Andersen, Price Waterhouse, Grant Thornton, Stoy Hayward, Robson Rhodes, Pannell Kerr Forster or any of these firms' subsidiaries.

Letter from Peter Clapham to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 19 July 1995:

I am writing in response to your question to the President of the Board of Trade about the number and value of contracts let to named consultancy organisations and their subsidiary companies in 1993/94 and 1994/95.

NPL awarded one, small contract to Pannel Kerr Forster Recruitment for the services of a temporary accountant during the specified period. The value of the contract was £3,550 excluding VAT. No other contracts have been awarded to the organisations named or to any other company known to be a subsidiary organisation.

Letter from W. Edgar to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 19 July 1995:

I refer to the above PQ from you to the President of the Board of Trade concerning contracts let by NEL to named consultants. I can confirm that the only contract in this category placed by NEL was to KPMG and was in respect of the installation of a Job Evaluation System. The contract was placed in 1994/95 at a value of £40,000 excluding VAT.

I trust you will find this information to be satisfactory for your purposes.

Letter from Seton Bennett to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 11 July 1995:

The President of the Board of Trade has asked me to reply on behalf of the National Weights and Measures Laboratory to your question about the number of contracts and total sum spent on employing Consultants associated with the Companies specified in your question or their subsidiaries.

This Agency has not had any contracts with any of the companies named.

Letter from Jim Norton to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 19 July 1995:

CONTRACTS WITH IDENTIFIED CONSULTANCY FIRMS

Chief Executives of DTI agencies have been asked to reply direct to your parliamentary question about contracts with a number of specified consultancy firms or their subsidiaries during 1993/94 and 1994/95 as it involves an operational matter for which they are responsible. I am replying in respect of the Radiocommunications Agency.

I am aware of only one contract let by this Agency with any of the firms during the period in question. This was with Coopers and Lybrand in 1994/95. I am afraid that, in the circumstances, to disclose the amount would breach commercial confidentiality. I'm sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

Letter from Peter Joyce to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 19 July 1995:

The President of the Board of Trade has asked me to reply to your question about contracts let to particular accountancy and consultancy firms and their subsidiaries in the last two years.

The Insolvency Service has let the following:

Firm	*1993–94*		*1994–95*	
	Number of contracts	*Amounts £*	*Number of contracts*	*Amounts £*
(a) Coopers and Lybrand	nil	nil	1	60,000
(b) KPMG (Peat Marwick)	1	45,000	nil	nil
(c) Ernst and Young	1	107,800	1	13,100
(d) Arthur Andersen	nil	nil	nil	nil
(e) Price Waterhouse	nil	nil	1	124,800
(f) Grant Thornton	nil	nil	nil	nil
(g) BDO Stoy Hayward	1	76,670	2	94,150
(h) Robson Rhodes	nil	nil	nil	nil
(i) Pannell Kerr Forster	nil	nil	nil	nil
Totals	3	229,470	5	292,050

Additionally, accountancy work on individual disqualification cases and accounting support for the work of the Agency has been provided by some of the firms you list, but it is not possible, without incurring disproportionate costs, to provide figures for such work.

Letter from David Durham to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 19 July 1995:

You tabled the following question:

To ask the President of the Board of Trade, how many contracts and for what total sum were let out by his Department and agencies for which it is responsible to (a) Coopers and Lybrand, (b) Peat Marwick (c) Ernst and Young, (d) Arthur Andersen, (e) Price Waterhouse, (f) Grant Thornton, (g) Stoy Hayward, (h) Robson Rhodes, (i) Pannel Kerr Forster and their subsidiaries for privatisation, market testing, management advice, accounting, audit, consultancy and other services in 1993/94 and 1994/95.

I have been asked to respond direct to you as Chief Executive of Companies House Executive Agency.

The answer is none.

Auditors (Removal from Office)

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many auditors have resigned or been removed from office in each of the last five years. [34100]

Mr. Oppenheim: This is a matter for Companies House. I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Peter Cann to Mr. Austin Mitchell, dated 19 July 1995:

You tabled a Parliamentary Question regarding how many auditors have resigned or been removed from office in each of the last five years.

I have been asked to reply to you directly as Chief Executive and Registrar of Companies House Executive Agency.

The number of notices of auditors' resignation received by the Registrars of Companies for England and Wales and for Scotland was as follows:

Year	*Number of notices of resignation of auditors*
1990	12,494
1991	15,790
1992	18,664
1993	17,789
1994	20,300
1995 (to 14 July)	11,987

The number of forms notifying removal of auditors' received by the Registrars of Companies for England and Wales and for Scotland was as follows:

Year	*Number of forms notifying removal of auditors*
1990	651
1991	647
1992	616
1993	661
1994	519
1995 (to 14 July)	175

I hope this is helpful.

Companies Act Inspectors

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if any partner from an accountancy or legal firm criticised in any of the inspectors' reports published since 1979 is currently acting as an inspector for his Department. [34093]

Mr. Oppenheim: Two current Companies Act inspectors are partners in accountancy firms which have been the subject of criticism in an inspectors' report published since 1979.

Ernst and Young

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many of the inspectors' reports published since 1988 have been critical of Ernst and Young and its constituents; and what action he has taken against the firm or its partners. [35097]

Mr. Oppenheim: Since 1988 there have been six inspectors' reports published which have been critical of chartered accountants Ernst and Young or its constituents. A copy of each report has been passed to the Institute of Chartered Accountants for it to consider the conduct of its members.

Manufacturing Trade

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will publish a table showing the British shares of the market for manufacturers in *(a)* the EFTA group, *(b)* the EEC six, *(c)* the Irish Republic and *(d)* the Commonwealth in (i) 1970, (ii) 1979, (iii) 1985 and (iv) 1994. [36204]

Mr. Nelson: The information for the Commonwealth and for 1970 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The available information is given in the following table.

UK share percentage of imports of manufacturers (SITC 5–8)

	1979	*1985*	*1993*
EFTA	9.4	7.5	6.4[1]
EC6	7.4	7.5	7.7
Irish Republic	51.4	37.1	39.5

[1] 1992.

Source:

Eurostat Intra and Extra EU Trade Data, OECD Database Series C.

Inspectors' Reports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade which inspectors' reports he is considering publishing; on what dates the inspectors were appointed; on what dates the report were completed; and what were their costs. [34095]

Mr. Oppenheim: The following table lists those Company Act inspections—all under section 165 of the Companies Act 1948, now section 432 of the Companies Act 1985—where the inspectors have submitted their completed report but where no decisions on publication have yet been made:

Company	*Date of appointment of inspectors*	*Date of report*
Link Service Stations Ltd.	11 March 1983	28 November 1989
Graylaw Holdings Ltd.	11 March 1983	28 November 1989
British Anzani Plc	11 March 1983	28 November 1986
Bank Street Securities Ltd.	4 October 1983	28 November 1989
Medway Secondry Metals Ltd.	16 February 1984	21 October 1987

The inspections are all related to Pennine Commercial Holdings plc where the inspectors are reviewing their interim report with a view to submitting a final report, following the conclusion in April 1995 of appeals against criminal convictions. When the inspectors have submitted their completed report on Pennine Commercial Holdings, publication of the reports will be considered. The cost of the investigation of Pennine Commercial Holdings plc to date is £391,000 and of related investigations is £74,600.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list the inspectors' reports relating to public limited companies which have been completed since 1979 but remain unpublished. [34092]

Mr. Oppenheim: The table lists all inspections into public companies under sections 432 and 442 of the Companies Act 1985 or their predecessor sections where the inspectors' reports have been completed and the reports remain unpublished.

Date of appointment	*Company name*	*Date of report*
12 May 1975	Bryanston Finance Ltd. (now Ramor Investments Ltd.)	27 April 1987
25 July 1980	Dunlop Holdings Ltd.	12 November 1981
8 March 1982	Euroflame Holdings Ltd.	27 June 1987
11 March 1983	British Anzani plc	28 November 1986
25 February 1983	Hartley Baird plc	21 December 1983
9 May 1985	Hartley Baird plc	4 June 1991

Substantial interim reports on Bryanston Finance Ltd. and Dunlop Holdings Ltd. were published on 22 March 1983 and 17 February 1981 respectively. The decision to publish British Anzani plc remains under consideration.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the date on which the inspectors' report on Graylaw Holdings Limited was completed; and when he will be able to publish it. [34094]

Mr. Oppenheim: Elizabeth Appleby QC and Peter Wilfred Foss FCA of Moores Rowland were appointed inspectors of Graylaw Holdings Limited on 11 March 1983 under the provisions of Section 165(1)(b) of the Companies Act 1948 (now Section 432 of the Companies Act 1985). The inspectors are reviewing their interim report on Pennine Commercial Holdings Plc, a related investigation, with a view to submitting a final report, following the conclusion in April 1995 of appeals against criminal convictions. When the inspectors have submitted their completed report on Pennine Commercial Holdings, publication of the reports will be considered.

Takeover Bids

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement on the rights of shareholders and employees when companies receive a hostile takeover bid. [34102]

Mr. Oppenheim: The city code on takeovers and mergers, administered by the takeover panel, applies to takeover bids involving public companies and some private companies. The code and the panel operate principally to ensure fair and equal treatment of all shareholders in relation to takeovers. The code's general principles and its detailed rules are designed to ensure, amongst other things: that all shareholders of the same class receive similar treatment; that they have sufficient information and advice to enable them to reach a properly informed decision and have sufficient time to do so; and that the board of the target company may not take action without the approval of the shareholders which could result in a bona fide offer being frustrated or in the shareholders being denied an opportunity to decide on its merits.

Accountants Acting as Receivers

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what proposals he has for legislation under which individuals or firms acting as reporting accountants for a bank would be prevented from acting as receivers for the same business. [34099]

Mr. Oppenheim: I have no proposals for legislation in this area.

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what plans he has to commission research into the number of reporting accountants who subsequently become receivers. [34098]

Mr. Oppenheim: I have no such plans.

Oil Rigs (Disposal)

Mr. Olner: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what study his Department made of routine onshore dismantling of oil rigs before giving permission to dump the Brent Spar at sea; [36282]

(2) if the Government ordered an independent body to sample and analyse the contents of the Brent Spar during the currency of the proposal for deep sea disposal; [36279]

(3) what assessment he has made of the time-scale for the length of time the Brent Spar would take to break up if dumped at sea; and what considerations led him to his conclusions; [36281]

(4) what is now his policy toward the deep-sea dumping of oil rigs. [36283]

Mr. Eggar: Several options, including onshore disposal, were considered for the abandonment of the Brent Spar before the judgment was made that deep-sea disposal was the best practicable environmental option in this case.

Independent surveys were carried out which enabled Shell to assess the contents of the Brent Spar. Copies of the impact hypothesis, which examines the long-term fate of the structure on the seabed, have been placed in the Library of the House.

It remains Government policy to consider every proposal on a case-by-case basis and in the light of a comparative assessment of the alternative options. This will have proper regard for environmental considerations and other users of the sea, as well as risk, technical feasibility and cost in order to arrive at the best practicable environmental option.

Single Market Compliance Unit

Sir Cranley Onslow: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what has been the outcome of the single market complaints raised by his Department's single market compliance unit with the internal market advisory committee. [34932]

Mr. Nelson: Of the 14 cases listed in the answer given by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Trade on 24 May 1995, *Official Report*, column *643–44*, those concerning Dutch waste water regulations, the testing of stack gas analysers to German standards and Greek soft

drink regulations have been resolved. The single market compliance unit is monitoring the outcome in each case. The unit is pressing for the successful resolution of the other cases.

World Wide Web

Mr. David Shaw: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will make a statement of the work his Department has carried out in the last 12 months in making information about his department available to the public via the Government world wide web server known as "www.open.gov.uk" and his plans and policies to make additional and new information available electronically on the server in the next 12 months. [34685]

Mr. Ian Taylor: In his speech to the Institute of Directors super-highways conference on 14 June 1995, my right hon. Friend the Member for Henley (Mr. Heseltine) announced the launch of the Department's own Internet server on that day, containing publications and practical information such as the DTI guide for business, ministerial speeches, DTI command papers, and so on. This is known as "www.dti.gov.uk" and is complementary to the CCTA GIS Server "www.open.gov.uk", which has made information available since last autumn. Due to the nature of the world wide web, these connect seamlessly to each other. To date, there have been some 9,000 inquiries to the DTI server.

I am encouraging the Department and others to consider making greater use of this medium, not only for the supply of information—such as export opportunities, scientific reports, DTI services, and so on—but also to enable more efficient and effective methods to be employed in the collection of data from industry, for instance, in order to award licences. The DTI has one of the largest internal E Mail networks in the country and increasingly our dialogue with industry is being enhanced by the use of electronic mail. My own office now regularly corresponds with people outside the Department via the Internet.

My E Mail address is "taylor @ mintech.demon.co.uk"

Aircraft Purchases

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what will be the effect on the balance of trade between the United Kingdom and the United States of America of the decision to buy Boeing 777 aircraft with United States rather than United Kingdom manufactured engines. [36184]

Mr. Eggar: The estimated life-time value, including spares, of British Airways' purchase of United States manufactured engines for 30 Boeing 777 aircraft is £880 million.

Inntrepreneur Leases

Mr. Wilson: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Office of Fair Trading report on Inntrepreneur leases; and if he will make a statement; [35773]

(2) if he will make available to affected parties copies of the Office of Fair Trading report on Inntrepreneur leases. [35774]

Mr. Jonathan Evans: I am unable to place a copy of the Director General of Fair Trading's report on his inquiry into brewer's wholesale pricing policy in the Library of the House. This is because the report contains information on particular businesses whose disclosure, without the consent of the businesses in question, is prohibited by section 133 of the Fair Trading Act 1973. Such consent has not been given. However, the director general issued a press notice on 16 May which contained a summary of the inquiry's findings. A copy of this is already available in the Library of the House. In addition, the affected parties have been provided with some more information on the conduct of the inquiry and its conclusions.

Telephone Sex Lines

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what restrictions exist on where credit card telephone sex lines can be advertised; what agency has responsibility for monitoring such lines; what restrictions exist on the use of credit card facilities to provide explicit sexual services; and what plans he has to introduce regulation similar to premium rate telephone services. [35393]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* The advertising of telephone information services paid for by credit card is presently regulated under the indecent Displays (Control) Act 1981 and the Obscene Publications Act 1959, and the content of messages under section 43 of the Telecommunications Act 1984. The Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services is currently consulting on its future remit, and this consultation includes discussion with credit card providers and network operators about the use of credit cards in paying for telephone services.

Mrs. Ann Winterton: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, on what occasions Oftel has been asked to investigate credit card telephone sex lines. [35394]

Mr. Ian Taylor *[holding answer 18 July 1995]:* Oftel has received a negligible level of complaints about these services. Oftel is not responsible for the regulation of the content of telephone information services billed by credit card.

Iraq (Military Exports)

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if live biological organisms which could be cultured and grown in fermentation chambers to develop biological warfare agents were sold to Iraq between 1980 and 1990. [35121]

Mr. Oppenheim: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mrs. Clwyd: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what anti-chemical protective devices were sold to Iraq between 1980 and 1990, with particular reference to anti-nerve gas injectors, gas masks, protective clothing or chemical agent detectors. [35145]

Mr. Nelson *[holding answer 17 July 1995]:* I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Anti-personnel Mines Exports (Singapore)

Mr. Llew Smith: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what information his Department holds on the trading relationship between the British company Casabee and Charter Industries of Singapore in regard to the export of anti-personnel mines. [30517]

Mr. Nelson: None.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. George Howarth: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will list *(a)* details of all overseas trips made by him, or ministerial colleagues in his Department, paid for wholly or partly from public funds and *(b)* the purpose, destination and duration of such overseas trips, which officials accompanied him and the total cost in each case, including that of officials.

Mr. Lang: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Oriana Cruise Ship

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the United Kingdom content on importation of the £2 million Oriana. [35319]

Mr. Eggar: I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Earnings

Mr. McAllion: To ask the President of the Board of Trade (1) what were the number of workers in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the United Kingdom earning less than two-thirds of median male earnings in each years since 1979. [35224]

(2) what were the numbers of workers earning less than 68 per cent. of full-time average earnings in each year since 1979. [35225]

Mrs. Angela Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Some relevant information is available in the reports of the New Earnings Survey, copies of which are in the Library.

Table 16 of part A of the reports contain median and average gross hourly earnings of full-time adults. The 1989 report has data for 1979 to 1989 and the 1994 report has data for 1990 to 1994.

Table 17 contains similar information on gross weekly earnings. The 1993 report contains data for 1983 to 1993 and the 1994 report contains data for 1984 to 1994. The available information for the years between 1979 and 1983 is for full-time men aged 21 and over and full-time women aged 18 and over. The information for 1983 to 1979 is in table 30 of the 1988 report.

Distributions of gross hourly earnings for categories of employee are in table 20, for the years 1979 to 1981 and 1989 to 1994, and in table 35 for the years 1982 to 1988.

Corporation Tax

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many small and medium-sized enterprises have paid corporation tax in each year since 1975. [35068]

Mr. Jack: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the numbers of companies charged to corporation tax at the small, marginal and main tax rates is given in table 11.3 of "Inland Revenue Statistics", a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. Some further analyses of mainstream corporation tax by size of payment are given in tables 11.6 and 11.8. Further information is not readily available.

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SERIES **VOLUME 263**

SESSION 1994–95

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SCOPE OF THE INDEX, ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS

This index is derived from the House of Commons Library's Parliamentary On-Line Information System (POLIS), and the subject terms used are based on those used in POLIS. There are often changes in column numbering, etc., between the daily part or weekly Hansard (which simply collects together the daily parts without revision) and the bound volume. The index for the bound volume is revised to take account of these changes and cannot therefore, be used in connection with the daily part or weekly Hansard. For these versions use the Fortnightly Index.

Scope and arrangement of the Index

Oral and Written Parliamentary Questions are indexed under subject headings and the names of Members asking and Ministers replying to them. Questions are not listed under the names of Departments replying. Departmental listings can be arrived at indirectly by looking under the names of the Minister(s) of that Department. There are, however, the headings 'Northern Ireland', 'Scotland', and 'Wales' under which one can find not only most Questions answered by the Northern Ireland Office, Scottish Office, Welsh Office but also Questions about these areas of the United Kingdom which are answered by other Departments. Ministerial statements are indexed under subject headings, under 'Ministerial statements' and the names of Ministers making them and Members speaking on them. General debates are indexed under broad subject headings and under the names of all Members and Ministers taking part. Debates on legislation (Bills, Orders, Regulations etc.) are indexed under the name of the Bill, Statutory Instruments etc, under subject headings and under the names of those taking part.

Rulings and Statements by Speaker and deputies are brought together under the heading 'Speaker's rulings and statements'.

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The date of each item except Parliamentary Questions is inserted immediately before the reference.

Members' names are given in the form by which they prefer to be known and are printed in bold italics. Under their names, entries are arranged under one of the two headings *Debates, etc.* (to include interventions on statements, points of order and so on) or *Questions.*

Abbreviations

Bills 1R = first reading, 2R = second reading, Money res = money resolution, Comm = Committee stage, Rep = Report stage, 3R = third reading, amendt/amendts = amendment/amendments, * = matter taken formally, without debate.

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